

I.R. NEWSPAPER REGY

RECEIVED 9 MAY 1868.

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# ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

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No. 686.—VOL. XII.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1868.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

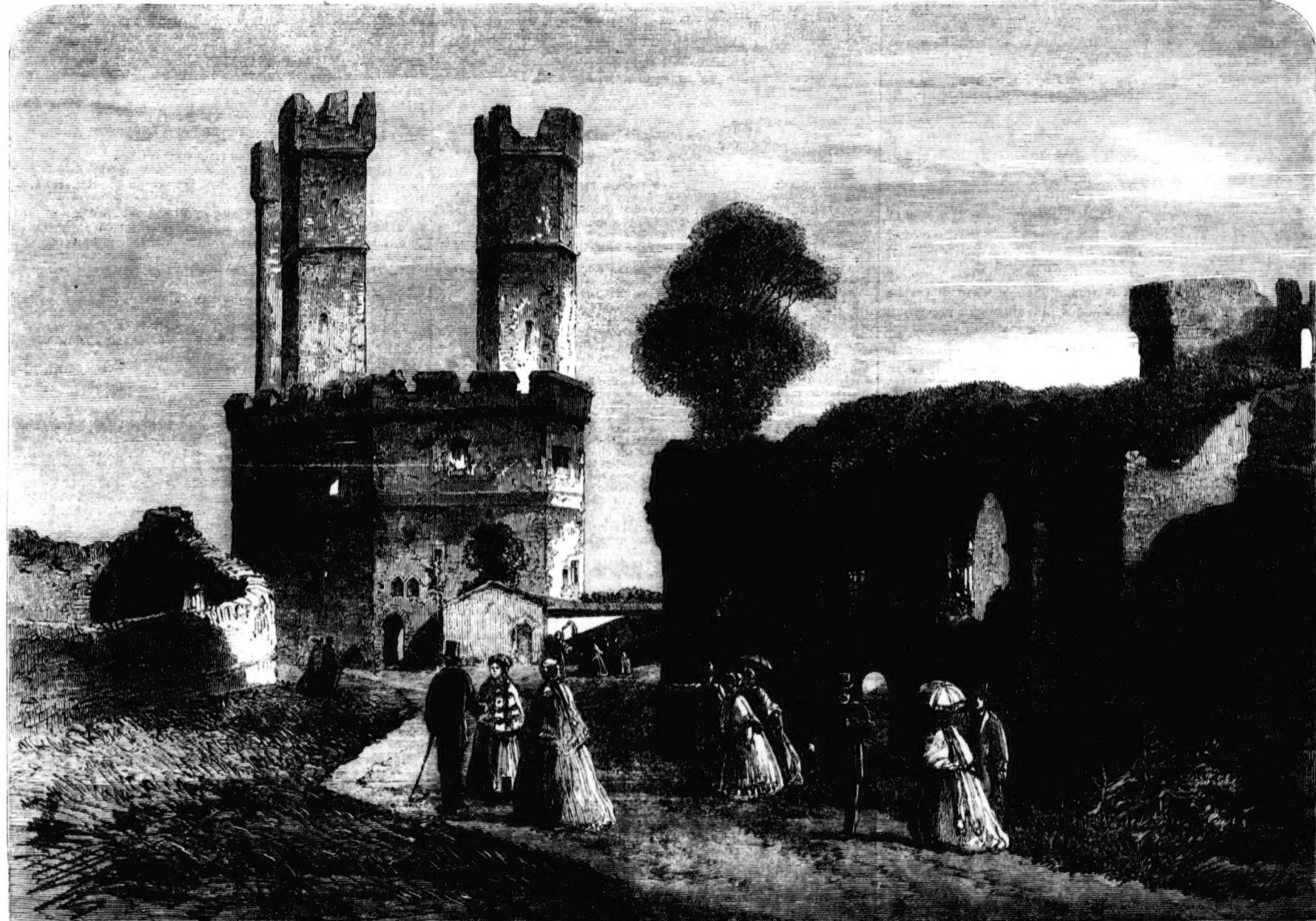
## PROMOTION BY PURCHASE.

HOWEVER it may fare with individuals, there are few institutions in this country so bankrupt in reputation and influence as to have none to defend and do them reverence—if they have only existed long enough. Even the Established Church in Ireland finds friends—we can scarcely say defenders—though not very wise ones. And some champions are actually bold enough to break a lance in defence of promotion by purchase in the Army; only they do not like to have the thing called by that name, and prefer to rechristen it by some such titles as these:—"A deposit system, tempering seniority, but combined with personal fitness;" or "a self-supporting system of retirement by means of deposits," and so forth. Now, not to dwell upon the fact that when a change of designation is required for either men or systems, it is indicative of something wrong—something to be ashamed of, something of evil odour that will not bear close scrutiny, and must be concealed under a novel form of words—it is evident that changing the name of the "purchase system" will not alter its character or make it either better or worse. If the purchase system be good, it is absurd to alter its known and understood descriptive appellation; if it be bad, no mere manipulation of words will change its character. Its evil reputation and pernicious effects will follow it and make themselves felt under whatever designation it may be made to assume. The Irish Church (to resume an illustration we have already used) is not less obnoxious to the bulk of the Irish people because it is called the "Church of England in Ireland" or a branch of the "United Church

of England and Ireland;" nor will the nature, character, and effects of promotion by purchase be altered by calling it by either of the titles we have mentioned, and which have been invented for it by its latest defender—a certain Mr. J. C. O'Dowd. This gentleman, who has just published a pamphlet on the subject, makes some rather strange assertions, and still more strange omissions—the strangest of the latter being that he entirely ignores the British public and its interests in the matter, and views the subject solely as it affects officers and their personal affairs.

Now, we cannot help regarding this as a very grave omission indeed, because it assumes that the purpose of officering the British Army is not to secure the most efficient servants for the public, but simply to provide a pleasant profession and rapid promotion for a certain class of individuals. According to the purchase system, the Army may be mainly officered by gentlemen who have no other qualification save wealth or family or political influence. A young man may obtain a commission if he happens to be able to command a certain sum of money and have "crammed" so as to pass a very easy examination. And he may obtain promotion, and even attain a position—that of lieutenant-colonel—which may place him in the way of being intrusted with high command, on the same simple and—to him—convenient terms. An aspirant to the position of an officer and a gentleman may possess little or no knowledge of military matters or of the science of war *before* he enters the Army—in the so-called non-scientific corps, we mean—and it is nobody's business to compel him to learn more than the mere routine of regimental

duty *afterwards*. This may be a very convenient arrangement for scions of wealthy families; but it is by no means advantageous to the public or fair to officers who have no recommendations to advancement save such unimportant things as ability, zeal, and knowledge of their profession. And be it remembered that it is from the branches of the Army which are non-scientific, in which promotion by purchase prevails, and in which, consequently, the largest number of incapables are to be found, that officers are selected for responsible commands. It is rare that an officer belonging to the Artillery or Engineers is intrusted with high command. The Line and the Guards monopolise the leading positions; and in these regiments any fool may become a lieutenant-colonel, be in command of his corps and in the way of filling a responsible trust, if he only have cash enough to buy his "steps" over the heads of better men than himself. We believe Sir Robert Napier, who has recently done such excellent service in Abyssinia, is about the first, if not the very first, instance of a scientific officer being intrusted with supreme command, while the history of the British Army affords many instances of non-scientific bunglers attaining that position. We do not say—for we know to the contrary—that there are no, or few, good officers in the Army under the present system; but we do say that they are not so numerous as they ought to be; that they are there in spite, and not in virtue, of the purchase system; and that that system does not, and cannot, bring them to the fore, because wealth, and brains, and industry do not always, indeed rarely, go together. The purchase system therefore does not subserve the interests of the nation. The



CARNARVON CASTLE, THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE FIRST PRINCE OF WALES

next question is, does it advance those of meritorious but poor officers?

Mr. O'Dowd, as we have said, looks at this matter mainly from the officers' point of view, and he tells us that the purchase system accelerates the promotion of the rich without retarding that of the poor; that it affords a cheap means of retirement to officers, who on leaving the service recover, by the sale of their commissions, the money they have paid in buying them; that five out of every six wealthy officers, and nineteen out of every twenty poor ones, are perfectly satisfied with it; that it "works well in the main;" that some plan is wanted to do for the Ordnance corps what purchase does for the Line, the Guards, and the Cavalry; and that, as he is "informed," the officers of the Artillery and Engineers are anxious to have promotion by purchase introduced into their branches of the service.

These are Mr. O'Dowd's assertions; and we think we are fully warranted in describing them as "rather strange." It is difficult to deal with some of the statements, because no authority whatever is given for them; but, certainly, others will not stand the test of examination by the light of common sense and experience, and others are at variance with the recorded opinions of some of the best officers the rolls of the British Army can boast; for instance, Lord Clyde, Lord West, Sir Henry Havelock, General Spencer, Colonel Franks, and others. We will not pronounce upon the assertion that the existing officers of the Army, rich and poor alike, are "perfectly satisfied" with the purchase system, because we do not know on what or whose authority it is made; but we do know that many excellent officers have emphatically condemned it; that it has been reported against by Royal Commissions; and that competent authorities have declared it to be utterly indefensible. How the purchase system can "accelerate the promotion of the rich without retarding that of the poor," seems to us inexplicable. In fact, as a contemporary has remarked, the statement "savour of the shamrock." But it is positively inconsistent with both logic and facts. As the opportunities for promotion in the Army are limited and the prizes comparatively few, it would seem to any mind save that of an Hibernian that a plan that secures the greatest number of those opportunities and prizes to men who can pay for them, must of necessity leave a small proportion to the moneyless, and therefore retards the advancement of the latter in the exact ratio that it accelerates that of the former. So much for the logic, now look at the facts, of the matter. According to a list appended to the Royal Commission on Purchase, it appears that of all the officers who entered the Army after 1815 who could not purchase, not one attained the rank of general, lieutenant-general, major-general, or colonel, while only eleven officers unable to purchase became lieutenant-colonels, and but twenty-seven officers so circumstanced attained the rank of major, during the subsequent forty years. We wonder how many officers bought themselves on during the same period.

But we are told the purchase system "works well in the main." That is the sort of thing that is said in defence of every absurdity. Be a practice never so faulty in theory and unfair in principle, you will find a Mr. O'Dowd to tell you that it "works well." But, as a plant which is rotten at the root can never produce a healthy shoot, nor a foul spring be the source of a clear stream, a system unjust in principle can never work fairly in practice; and so we may dismiss this argument as unworthy of further notice.

The working of the system is well illustrated by the case of Sir Henry Havelock, who was still a lieutenant at the age of forty-three, and after twenty-three years of distinguished service, and having been repeatedly "bought over." As he himself says in one of his letters, "without a rupee in the world save my pay and allowances, advancement is beyond my hopes." Again, "I was purchased over, I used to say, by three sots and two fools;" and "the honour of an old soldier on the point of having his juniors put over him, is so sensitive that, if I had no family to support, and the right of choice in my own hands, I would not serve one hour longer." And this was the man of whom Lord Hardinge said, if India required to be saved he was the person to save it; and who subsequently justified the opinion by contributing largely to save our Eastern empire after the mutiny of 1857. Was not the promotion of Havelock, the poor but able officer, retarded by the acceleration the purchase system gave to that of the "sots" and "fools" who bought over his head? And have there not been, are there not now, many men in Havelock's position in the Army? We have surely said enough to condemn this latest attempt to resuscitate the exploded arguments in favour of promotion by purchase and not by merit.

#### CARNARVON CASTLE.

The recent visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Carnarvon has revived the interest connected with its ancient castle, of which we this week print an Engraving. It is generally believed that the first Prince of Wales (afterwards the unfortunate Edward II.) was born in the Eagle Tower of Carnarvon Castle, though certain inexorable individuals of "Dryasdust" proclivities have been taking pains to destroy even that popular tradition. Will said "Dryasdust" long leave ordinary people anything whatever in the shape of sentimental beliefs, we wonder? Traditional points of faith have been upset one after another in rapid succession of late years, and we will soon, we suppose, be allowed to believe nothing that cannot be proved to the satisfaction of the most matter-of-fact of the antiquary race.

But the opinions of antiquaries, which are, no doubt, perfectly sound, do not alter the fact that the ruins of Carnarvon Castle are, perhaps, the finest of their kind in Great Britain. The site is defended on one side by the Menai Strait; on another by the estuary of the Seiont; and on a third by a small creek. The area inclosed within the walls is about three acres. The walls, 7 ft. 9 in. thick, are very

high, and supported by thirteen strong towers, none of which are round, but some of a hexagonal shape, others octagonal, or even pentagonal. The Eagle Tower, which is the largest and loftiest, is surmounted by three angular turrets in the roof, may be ascended by 158 stone steps. It commands a wide view of the Menai Strait and the green fields of Anglesea. In the lower part of this tower is a small empty room, 12 ft. long by 8 ft. wide, having two doors and a window, but no fireplace, where tradition falsely says Edward II. was born. The fact is that the building, though designed by the architect, Henry de Erelton, in the reign of Edward I., did not actually exist when his son was born, in 1284. The Eagle Tower was adorned with sculptured eagles, of which some fragments are still visible; but its name is said to have been taken from a bronze Roman eagle, found on the site of the ancient Roman station of Segontium, about a mile from this place. It is proved by the rolls of contemporary accounts relating to the expenditure for this building that the Eagle Tower was roofed in November, 1316, and floored in February, 1317. The castle itself was begun in 1284; but little could have been done before April 25, the day of Edward's birth. The majestic gate tower, with the statue of Edward I. sheathing his sword, to denote the end of his warfare in Wales, was erected in 1320. This castle is often mentioned in the history of later times. It changed hands in the Wars of the Roses more than once. In the reign of Charles I. it was a prison, in which Prynne, the Puritan pamphleteer, was confined, by sentence of the Star Chamber, after having twice suffered the cruel punishment of having his ears cropped and his cheeks branded for writing against the Court. Oliver Cromwell's soldiers, in 1644, took possession of the castle, but it was retaken by the Royalists, and captured once again by the army of the Parliament two years later. Charles II., when he came to reign, ordered Carnarvon Castle to be demolished—perhaps to save the cost of keeping it up. This was, however, not done; and externally it yet remains entire. The Marquis of Anglesey is Constable of the castle, as well as Ranger of Snowdon.

The interior space is divided into the upper and lower castle yards; and on the Mound, in the upper castle yard, was performed the ceremony of presenting the addresses to the Prince and Princess of Wales on the occasion of their recent visit. Under a marquee on the summit of the Mound, where soft and verdant turf covers a heap of ruined masonry, were three chairs of state, upon which the Prince and Princess of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge were seated. The platforms on each side, beneath the mouldering walls of the old castle, were crowded with ladies and gentlemen. The High Sheriff of Carnarvonshire presented the address, signed with his own name on behalf of his countrymen, and it was read by Mr. Picton Jones, the Under Sheriff. Its essential part was this:—"We, the inhabitants of the several counties and towns in North Wales, approach your Royal Highnesses with feelings of devoted loyalty. We welcome your Royal Highnesses to the Principality on this the anniversary of the birth, within these walls, of the first Prince of Wales, and beg to express the great gratification your visit affords. Unlike the period in which the first Prince of Wales was presented to a reluctant population from the gates of this majestic and venerable building, your Royal Highnesses are this day received with unbounded enthusiasm by a united and loyal people, proud of their own country, and proud also of forming a portion of this great empire." The reading of this address was followed by that of the council of the Welsh National Eisteddfod, read by the chairman, the Rev. J. Griffiths, Rector of Neath, who presented also to her Royal Highness the gold medal of the Eisteddfod, struck in honour of the occasion, upon which the following inscription was engraved:—"Presented to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, on the occasion of her first gracious visit to the Principality, Carnarvon, April, 1868." On the reverse were the words, "Eisteddfod genedlaethol gewelia." The Princess, accepting the medal, graciously bowed her thanks.

The Prince then read the following reply to the addresses:—"To the inhabitants of the counties and towns of North Wales. Gentlemen,—I cordially thank you for your hearty and affectionate welcome. It is with peculiar satisfaction that we receive your addresses on the birthday and in the birthplace of the first Prince of Wales. The Princess of Wales feels deeply your kind congratulations on the recovery of her health. We both sincerely appreciate the consideration which has led the towns and counties of North Wales to unite in embodying in one address the sentiments you have now expressed, and we desire to assure the whole Principality of our continued interest in your welfare and prosperity."

The Royal party then proceeded to apartments fitted up for their reception in one of the towers of the castle. They consisted of a drawing-room and retiring-rooms, furnished with admirable taste. Leaving these apartments, the Royal visitors were escorted to the banqueting-tent, in the lower castle yard, where a sumptuous entertainment awaited them.

**METEORS AND COMETS.**—Professor Pepper, in his Lenten lectures on "Physical Astronomy," stated that, fourteen years ago, Dr. Bedford discovered the relation between meteor and comet, and announced their actual identity; that at the time, and long since, it was regarded as mere theory; but within the last two years astronomers have proved the truth of Dr. Bedford's discovery, which was made by a careful comparison of recorded phenomena from the earliest times. The professor said that it had been proved by five mathematical elements of the orbits of five several comets and meteors, and that the discovery is regarded as one of the grandest additions to astronomical science; and stated that Dr. Bedford has propounded entirely new theories of astronomy, which are most profound and very interesting, and well worthy of being studied.

**THE CHANNEL FLEET.**—A Parliamentary paper has just been published which contains Admiral Warden's reports of the trials of the Channel Fleet in 1867, with the remarks of Vice-Admiral Robinson, the Controller of the Navy, thereon. The observations of the Controller consist of a critical analysis of the performances of the several ships in the squadron as recorded by Rear-Admiral Warden; but in the detailed reports there are very great discrepancies, which further trials alone can clear away. After the most careful consideration, Admiral Robinson can see no encouragement whatever in these reports to return to the construction of unhandy, long, and comparatively slightly-armoured ships; on the contrary, so far as they go, they thoroughly confirm the propriety of the changes that have been made in the forms of ships recently constructed—less length and greater fighting power, combined with handiness, having been secured to them. The engines of the new type alone give cause for dissatisfaction, and they only in some instances, the peculiarities of which are now undergoing the most careful inquiry.

**THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.**—Several remarkable instances of persons risking their own lives to save others were brought before this society, at its last meeting, for honourable recognition. The silver medallion of the society was awarded to Miss H. Sissons, of South Devon, for saving a young lady from drowning. The circumstances of this rescue were stated to the society and created much interest. It seems that Miss Buckworth, the youngest daughter of the Rev. T. E. Buckworth, while walking with a sister from one rock to another on the banks of the Orne, slipped into a deep pool. Her sister plunged in and pushed the poor girl to a rock, but was herself carried into deep water. Miss Sissons, hearing cries for assistance, ran to the spot, and, seeing the danger of the eldest girl, plunged in to her assistance and succeeded in keeping her up until further assistance was brought by the younger Miss Buckworth. Various cases were recommended to the notice of the society by the Lords of the Admiralty, and various awards were made. Michael Coughlin, of the coastguard service, received the bronze medallion for saving two men at Ballymoney, in Ireland. The vessel in which the men had been sent to pieces in a storm, and Coughlin rushed into the sweeping surf with a life-buoy and life-lines and effected their rescue. The same award was made to James Parr, of her Majesty's ship Trafalgar, for attempting to save a man who fell overboard into 72 ft. of water. The medallion was likewise given to Mr. W. Kiddie, Navigation Lieutenant of her Majesty's ship Royal Alfred; and to Thomas Parsons, of the same ship, for saving a man of the Royal Marines who fell overboard at sea in the night. Mrs. Elizabeth Poingdestre, of Jersey, was awarded the same medal for saving an attempted suicide; and a boy, aged thirteen, named Thomas Wakem, received the like acknowledgment of his bravery in saving the captain of a schooner who fell overboard through a collision in St. George's Channel. John Holwell was presented with the medallion for the assistance he gave in the rescue of twenty-seven persons wrecked in the Spotted Islands, Labrador, as mentioned in the *Times* a few weeks ago. "Thanks" on parchment were given to the Rev. G. K. Smyth for saving a man who fell into the water at the navigation wall, Cork; to Michael Morrissey, for saving a boy who fell into deep water at Merchant's-quay, Cork; and to Patrick Denkey, for saving a boy from the river Lee, Cork. Thanks to the treasurer, Mr. T. E. Baker, closed the proceedings.

#### ILLUSTRATED TIMES

#### Foreign Intelligence.

##### FRANCE.

The *Constitutionnel*, in reply to a statement of the *Journal des Débats*, denies that there has been any disagreement between M. Rouher and Marshal Niel in the commission on the Budget. It says:—"Marshal Niel simply asks for grants which will enable him to keep France on a level with neighbouring Powers. M. Rouher does not deny the necessity of these grants, and not one word which passed between the two Ministers could be interpreted as of a nature to create belief that the peace of Europe was endangered." The *Moniteur de l'Armée* publishes an article commenting upon the observations of the *New Prussian (Cross) Gazette*, which, in giving the particulars of Prussian military reductions, expressed the hope that other Powers would follow her example. The *Moniteur* states that France had already taken the initiative by sending to their homes 14,000 men at the end of March. Consequently, the Prussian reductions were subsequent to those of France, and in proportion smaller.

The Paris journals contain intelligence of differences between France and Tunis. The French Consul has broken off relations with the Bey, the Imperial Government being resolved to defend energetically the interests of its subjects.

The elections for Périgueux have resulted in the return of M. Bozéron, the official candidate, by 17,287 votes; the Marquis de Materville, the unsuccessful candidate, obtaining 10,134 votes. At Albi, in Savoy, where there are 29,958 voters, M. Gangiram, the official candidate, obtained 13,774, M. Gose 9354, and M. Descaze 639 votes.

##### ITALY.

The marriage festivities having been concluded, the Italians are settling down to work again. In Monday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the Registry and Stamp Tax Bill came under discussion. Count Cambray Digny, the Minister of Finance, opposed all amendments tending to a reduction of taxation, which was necessary to strengthen Italian credit against an unworthy and insidious war carried on against it, and to prove to Europe that Italy was seriously determined to balance her finances.

##### ROME.

The Austrian Minister at the Papal Court, Count Crivelli, died last Saturday afternoon, from an attack of pulmonary asphyxia, while riding outside the walls, near the Pincian Gate.

The Pope has ordered that the medal of honour conferred upon the medical men who distinguished themselves during the cholera visitation last year may also be granted to Jewish doctors similarly deserving.

##### AUSTRIA.

The law respecting the mode of procedure for administering the oaths to witnesses in courts of justice and the law abolishing imprisonment for debt have received the Imperial sanction and been promulgated.

The negotiations now going on between the Hungarian and Croatian delegates promise to be attended with good results. It is rumoured that General Klapka will be appointed Hungarian War Minister. The attempt to effect an agreement between the moderate Left and Kossuth has failed.

##### TURKEY.

Refik Effendi, the Scheikh-ul-Islam, has been dismissed. The Sultan's own professor, Hassan Effendi, has been appointed to succeed him in this the highest religious post of the empire.

##### CANDIA.

The Athens journals publish advices from Crete, according to which there was an engagement, lasting the whole day, on April 14, at Apocorona, between the Turkish troops and the insurgents, the latter claiming to have been victorious. Mehmet Ali Pacha is said to have been in command of the Turkish forces. Other engagements are reported on the 11th, 12th, 15th, and 16th of April. The Greek journals assert that the Turkish troops have since committed great outrages. The Greek steamers Union and Crete continue to make voyages to Crete with provisions and munitions of war, returning with the families of the insurgents. The Cretans have elected delegates to represent them in the Greek Parliament.

##### THE UNITED STATES.

The impeachment trial still proceeds, the Senate being engaged in listening to the pleadings of the managers on the one side and the counsel for the defence on the other.

The House of Representatives, by 91 against 18 votes, refused to consider a resolution offered by Mr. Robinson, a Democrat—viz., to recall the managers and rescind the impeachment proceedings. A resolution was introduced providing that a committee be appointed to investigate the reports of the managers, who refrained from examining General Sherman during the trial in consequence of the result of a preliminary examination. No vote, however, was taken upon this resolution.

The bill for the protection of naturalized subjects abroad was amended previous to its passage, so as to exempt from seizure as hostages foreign Ambassadors and their servants, and to empower the President to suspend the commercial relations with nations refusing to conform to the requirements of the measure.

The Reconstruction election in Louisiana, like that in South Carolina, has resulted in the ratification of the Constitution and the election of the Radical officials, the negroes being greatly in the majority. A negro has been chosen Lieutenant-Governor of Louisiana. The Conservatives, however, carried the city of New Orleans.

In New York a law has been passed authorising the construction of an underground railway from the City Hall Park, at the lower end of New York city, along the whole length of Manhattan Island. The road is to be completed within two years.

The construction of the Pacific Railway has progressed so far that on April 18 the rails were laid on the highest grade of the Rocky Mountains, 8212 ft. above the sea level, said to be the highest point attained by any railroad in the world. The construction parties are now working on the western slope of the mountains.

##### CANADA.

Whelan has been committed for trial for the assassination of M. D'Arcy McGee. It is reported that evidence has been discovered which proves that the murder was planned by forty Fenians, that lots were cast as to who should execute the deed, and that the lot fell to Whelan.

##### INDIA.

The Government has publicly proclaimed the adopted son of the Maharajah of Mysore as his successor. No disturbances have taken place in any part of Mysore in consequence.

It is proposed to hold an exhibition in Bombay on a large scale in January next.

A great battle has been fought in Afghanistan between Sirdar Mahomed Yacoob Khan, Governor of Herat, and the reigning Ameer. It resulted in a victory for the former, who captured Kandahar, took the Ameer's brother prisoner, and proclaimed Shere Ali ruler of Afghanistan.

Mr. C. H. SPURGEON is to be presented with £1200 as a token of affection and the memorial stones of two more houses for ministers' orphans—to the erection of which he has devoted the gift—will be laid on the Stockwell Orphanage grounds on Whit Monday. Three weeks after, the first stones of two more houses will be laid—ones subscribed for by Sabbath-school children, the other by the students at the Pastor's College—and a fete in honour of Mr. Spurgeon's birthday (June 18) will be held on the same spot.

## MR. CHARLES DICKENS'S FAREWELL TO AMERICA.

Previous to leaving America, Mr. Dickens was entertained by a number of friends who are connected with the newspaper press of that country, at a banquet at Delmonico's, in New York, on April 18, the gathering being said to be the largest and most influential assemblage of newspaper men ever seen in America. Two hundred gentlemen, from all parts of the country, sat down at table; and (Horace Greeley presiding) addresses were made by Henry J. Raymond, George W. Curtis, William H. Hurlburt, Charles Eliot Norton, and several others. Mr. Dickens was somewhat indisposed, but he made on the occasion a characteristic address, so full of genuine affection for America and her people that it has silenced all cavillers. Had he made this speech on his first arrival in America it might have been thought that he desired to propitiate favour, but his making it on the eve of his departure is taken as a renewed proof of sincerity. As his farewell to the United States, Mr. Dickens said:—

Gentlemen.—I cannot do better than take my cue from your distinguished president, and refer in my first remarks to his remarks in connection with the old, natural association between you and me. When I received an invitation from a private association of working members of the press of New York to dine with them to-day, I accepted that compliment in grateful remembrance of a calling that was once my own, and in loyal sympathy towards a brotherhood which, in the spirit, I have never quitted. To the whole-ome training of severe newspaper work, when I was a very young man, I constantly refer my first successes; and my sons will hereafter testify of their father that he was always steadily proud of that ladder by which he rose. If it were otherwise, I should have but a very poor opinion of their father, which, perhaps, upon the whole, I have not. Hence, Gentlemen, under any circumstances, this company would have been exceptionally interesting and gratifying to me. But whereas I supposed that, like the fairies' pavilion in the "Arabian Nights," it would be but a mere handful, and I find it turn out, like the same elastic pavilion, capable of comprehending a multitude, so much the more proud am I of the honour of being your guest; for you will readily believe that the more widely representative of the press in America my entertainers are the more I must feel the goodwill and the kindly sentiments towards me of that vast institution. Gentlemen, so much of my voice has lately been heard in the land, and I have for upwards of four hard winter months so contended against what I have been sometimes quite admiringly assured was "a true American catarrh," a position which I have throughout highly appreciated, though I might have preferred to be naturalized by any other outward and visible signs—I say, Gentlemen, so much of my voice has lately been heard that I might have been contented with troubling you no further from my present standing-point, were it not a duty with which I henceforth charge myself, not only here but on every suitable occasion whatsoever and wheresoever, to express my high and grateful sense of my second reception in America, and to bear my honest testimony to the national generosity and magnanimity. Also, to declare how astounded I have been by the amazing changes that I have seen around me on every side—changes moral, changes physical, changes in the amount of land subdued and peopled, changes in the rise of vast new cities, changes in the growth of older cities almost out of recognition, changes in the graces and amenities of life, changes in the press, without whose advancement no advancement can be made anywhere. Nor am I, believe me, so arrogant as to suppose that in five and twenty years there have been no changes in me, and that I had nothing to learn and no extreme impressions to correct when I was here first. And, Gentlemen, this brings me to a point on which I have, ever since I landed here last November, observed a strict silence, though tempted sometimes to break it, but in reference to which I will, with your good leave, take you into my confidence now. Even the press, being human, may be sometimes mistaken or misinformed, and I rather think that I have in one or two rare instances known its information to be not perfectly accurate with reference to myself. Indeed, I have now and again been more surprised by printed news that I have read of myself than by any printed news that I have ever read in my present state of existence. Thus, the vigour and perseverance with which I have for some months past been collecting materials for and hammering away at a new book on America have much astonished me, seeing that all that time it has been perfectly well known to my publishers, on both sides of the Atlantic, that I positively declared that no consideration on earth should induce me to write one. But what I have intended, what I have resolved upon (and this is the confidence I seek to place in you), is, on my return to England, in my own person, to bear, for the benefit of my countrymen, such testimony to the gigantic changes in this country as I have hinted at to-night. Also, to record that wherever I have been, in the smallest places equally with the largest, I have been received with unsurpassable politeness, delicacy, sweet temper, hospitality, consideration, and with unsurpassable respect for the privacy daily enforced upon me by the nature of my vocation here and the state of my health. This testimony, so long as I live and so long as my descendants have any legal right in my books, I shall cause to be republished, as an appendix to every copy of those two books of mine in which I have referred to America. And this I will do, and I cause to be done, not in mere love and thankfulness, but because I regard it as an act of plain justice and honour. Gentlemen, the transition from my own feelings towards and interest in America to those of the mass of my countrymen seems to be a natural one; but, whether or no, I make it with an express object. I was asked in this very city, about last Christmas time, whether an American was not at some disadvantage in England as a foreigner. The notion of an American being regarded in England as a foreigner at all, of his ever being thought of or spoken of in that character, was so unconsciously incongruous an absurdity to me that my gravity was, for the moment, quite overpowered. As soon as it was restored, I said that for years and years past I hoped I had but as many American friends and had received as many American visitors as almost any Englishmen living, and that my unvarying experience, fortified by theirs, was that it was enough in England to be an American to be received with the readiest respect and recognition anywhere. Hereupon, out of half a dozen people, suddenly spoke out two, one an American gentleman, with a cultivated taste for art, who, finding himself on a certain Sunday outside the walls of a certain historical English castle, famous for its pictures, was refused admission there, according to the strict rules of the establishment on that day, but who, on merely representing that he was an American gentleman on his travels, had, not to say the picture gallery, but the whole castle placed at his immediate disposal. The other was a lady, who, being in London, and having a great desire to see the famous reading-room of the British Museum, was assured by the English family with whom she stayed that it was, unfortunately, impossible, because the place was closed for a week, and she had only three days there. Upon that lady's going to the Museum, as she assured me, alone to the gate, self-introduced as an American lady, the gate flew open, as it were, magically. I am unwillingly bound to add that she certainly was young and exceedingly pretty. Still, the porter of that institution is of an obese habit, and, according to the best of my observation of him, not very impressive. Now, Gentlemen, I refer to these trifles as a collateral assurance to you that the Englishman who shall humbly strive, as I hope to do, to be in England as faithful to America as to England herself, has no previous conceptions to contend against. Points of difference there have been, points of difference there are, points of difference there probably always will be between the two great peoples. But broadcast in England is sown the sentiment that those two peoples are essentially one, and that it rests with them jointly to uphold the great Anglo-Saxon race, to which our president has referred, and all its great achievements before the world. And if I know anything of my countrymen—and they give me credit for knowing something—if I know anything of my countrymen, Gentlemen, the English heart is stirred by the fluttering of those stars and stripes, as it is stirred by no other flag that flies except its own. If I know my countrymen, in any and every relation towards America, they begin, not as Sir Anthony Absolute recommended that lovers should begin, with "a little aversion," but with a great liking and a profound respect; and, whatever the little sensitiveness of the moment, or the little official occasion, or the little official policy, now or then, or here or there, may be, take my word for it that the first enduring, great, popular consideration in England is a generous construction of justice. Finally, Gentlemen, and I say this subject to your correction, I do believe that from the great majority of honest minds on both sides there cannot be absent the conviction that it would be better for this globe to be riven by an earthquake, fired by a comet, overrun by an iceberg and abandoned to the Arctic fox and bear, than that it should present the spectacle of these two great nations—each of which has, in its way and hour, striven so hard and so successfully for freedom—ever again being arrayed the one against the other (Tumultuous applause, the company rising to their feet and greeting the sentiment with enthusiasm). Gentlemen, I cannot thank your president enough or you enough for your kind reception of my health and of my poor remarks; but, believe me, I do thank you with the utmost fervour of which my soul is capable (Great applause, with which almost every sentence of the address had been received).

The band then played "God save the Queen," the company joining in it with enthusiastic voices.

THE PEEL STATUE IN PALACE-YARD.—The statue of the late Sir Robert Peel, which was originally erected midway in the carriage entrance of Palace-yard, but was removed before being uncovered, a better site having been procured for it, has at last been completed and unveiled. It now stands opposite the gate leading directly to Westminster Hall and facing Parliament-street, and has been generally admired. The figure of the great statesman is in bronze, about 10ft. high, and is thought to be an admirable likeness. The base is of granite, and the pedestal of red Aberdeen polished granite. The erection of the statue of Lord Palmerston is shortly to be commenced.

## MEETING OF SIR R. NAPIER WITH THE KING OF TIGRE.

ALTHOUGH the great events of which Abyssinia has recently been the scene have thrown previous occurrences into the shade, still, the incident depicted in our Engraving is not devoid of interest. We have already given some account of the meeting of the British Commander-in-Chief with the King of Tigré, and to that account we now add the subjoined details supplied by a correspondent who was present on the occasion. He says:—

"I am not exaggerating when I state that certainly not one individual in ten out of the whole camp believed that the Abyssinian 'Field of the Cloth of Gold' would take place; but, nevertheless, the Commander-in-Chief and staff, escorted by 150 cavalry, 300 infantry, four Armstrong guns, and one company of engineers (for signalling and photography), and 'armed' with two elephants, reported to the appointed rendezvous to meet Kassai, King of Tigré. As in duty bound, I joined the party, and we reached Mai Deha soon after nine o'clock, a.m. The tents were barely pitched, and the men had had no time to think of breakfast, when a cloud of animated niggers was descried beginning to fringe the crest of the hill immediately opposite, about a mile distant. In a moment we were all on the *qui vive*, as this portentous crowd of armed savages evidently heralded the approach of the Tigré Monarch. Five minutes had not elapsed when Captain Speedy galloped up and announced that the party 'long looked for, come at last,' would appear in less than half an hour. Our Commander-in-Chief, however, had no notion of being surprised in this unceremonious manner, so back galloped Captain Speedy with a message informing his Majesty that he must halt at a respectful distance, and that we were not prepared to receive him until twelve o'clock. The view from our camp, as seen through field-glasses, was now most picturesque. The regal tent of scarlet bunting and Paisley shawls was pitched in the centre of the amphitheatre of hills facing us, and around were grouped the accompanying multitudes of 'armed' and unarmed men, which I heard not inaptly described as the 'royal rabble.' At the foot of these hills, and about a quarter of a mile from our own position—which was also on rising ground—ran a small stream, or, more strictly speaking, a ditch, about four feet wide. This was the boundary-mark, the neutral and muddy ground on which the Ruler of Tigré and the representative of her Britannic Majesty were to exchange ideas. Shortly before the hour appointed for the 'durbar,' I accompanied Major Grant and Captain Moore to the King's tent. A squadron of the 3rd Bombay Cavalry, under Colonel Graves, also proceeded thither to form the royal escort. Having dismounted and made their 'salaam,' the two staff officers left the tent and were immediately followed by his Majesty and his Ministers. Kassai mounted a grey mule, gorgeously caparisoned, but a 'rum'un to look at,' and hoisted a bran-new magenta silk umbrella, over his bare head. The scene at this moment was novel, picturesque, and, I may say, imposing. In the centre was the Monarch, most jealously guarded by his attendants; on his right the Royal standards and band; on the left the squadron of horse; and all around a background of swarthy warriors, some on foot, some mounted, but all armed to the teeth; not a man was there but had his sword, shield, and double-barrelled gun, and if their ammunition is as plentiful and as good as their weapons there is no dismising the fact that they might prove formidable adversaries. We were all astonished at finding them so well armed, the guns being of first-rate English and French manufacture.

"The Tigré flag is a vandyked streamer of red and yellow, and looks as if borrowed from the property-room of a minor theatre after a long run of an Oriental burlesque; there are two of them, and they are carried in the centre of the band of music (?) which precedes the King.

"The Royal cortége proceeded very slowly to the brink of the stream, on the other side of which was Sir Robert Napier, seated on an elephant and surrounded by a brilliant staff. On the approach of his guest he descended from the howdah and mounted a grey Arab charger, a most necessary proceeding, as he could hardly have exchanged salutations from a steed 11 ft. high with the King, whose 'mount' barely exceeded 11 hands. The 'Rubicon' passed, Kassai was conducted to the 'durbar' tent, and, on taking his seat at Sir Robert's right hand, was saluted by the Armstrong battery, and the 10th Native Infantry fired three *feux-de-joie*. The King is not bad-looking, although his features are of the type which usually indicate weakness of character. His complexion is dark olive, decidedly not black; and he might be mistaken for a sun-burnt Spaniard or Maltese. His eyes are bright, and when he smiles his countenance is good-humoured and pleasing; but we did not see him under favourable auspices, for evidently the cares of State sat heavy on him, and he was excessively nervous, at which I do not wonder when I recollect that his elder brother and two uncles were watching him as cats do mice during the whole interview. His agitation betrayed itself, for he never ceased to rub and scratch the back of his head. I stood just behind his chair, and as I watched the nervous twitches of his slender and really aristocratic fingers I was grieved to note that the Royal hand, and especially the Royal nails, had long been strangers to soap and water. He is about eight-and-twenty years of age, and rather over than under the middle height. His dress was handsome, being made of rich gaudy-coloured silk, with the usual *toga* of white linen and a collar of fur tails; his hair was divided into seven distinct partings, and between each parting was an elaborate plait of hair, plastered down to his head with highly-perfumed oil, the smell of which almost overpowered me, being a combination of musk and turpentine, with a dash of thyme. The only ornament he wore was a richly-chased gold bracelet, about eight inches deep, on his right arm; he had no sword on, but his armour and sword bearer followed him about like a shadow. The 'palaver' was short, and not much to the purpose; but I was struck with one of the King's remarks, to the effect that 'the Abyssinians were not of a gregarious nature, that they did not wish to extend the circle of their acquaintance, and that they would infinitely prefer our room to our company, but that, as we had come, it was better that we should be friends than enemies.' At the conclusion of the durbar presents were offered for his Majesty's acceptance—a double-barrelled rifle, three sets of handsome Bohemian glass jugs and goblets, some rich silks, and the Commander-in-Chief's own horse."

## THE LATE ROYAL MARRIAGE AT TURIN.

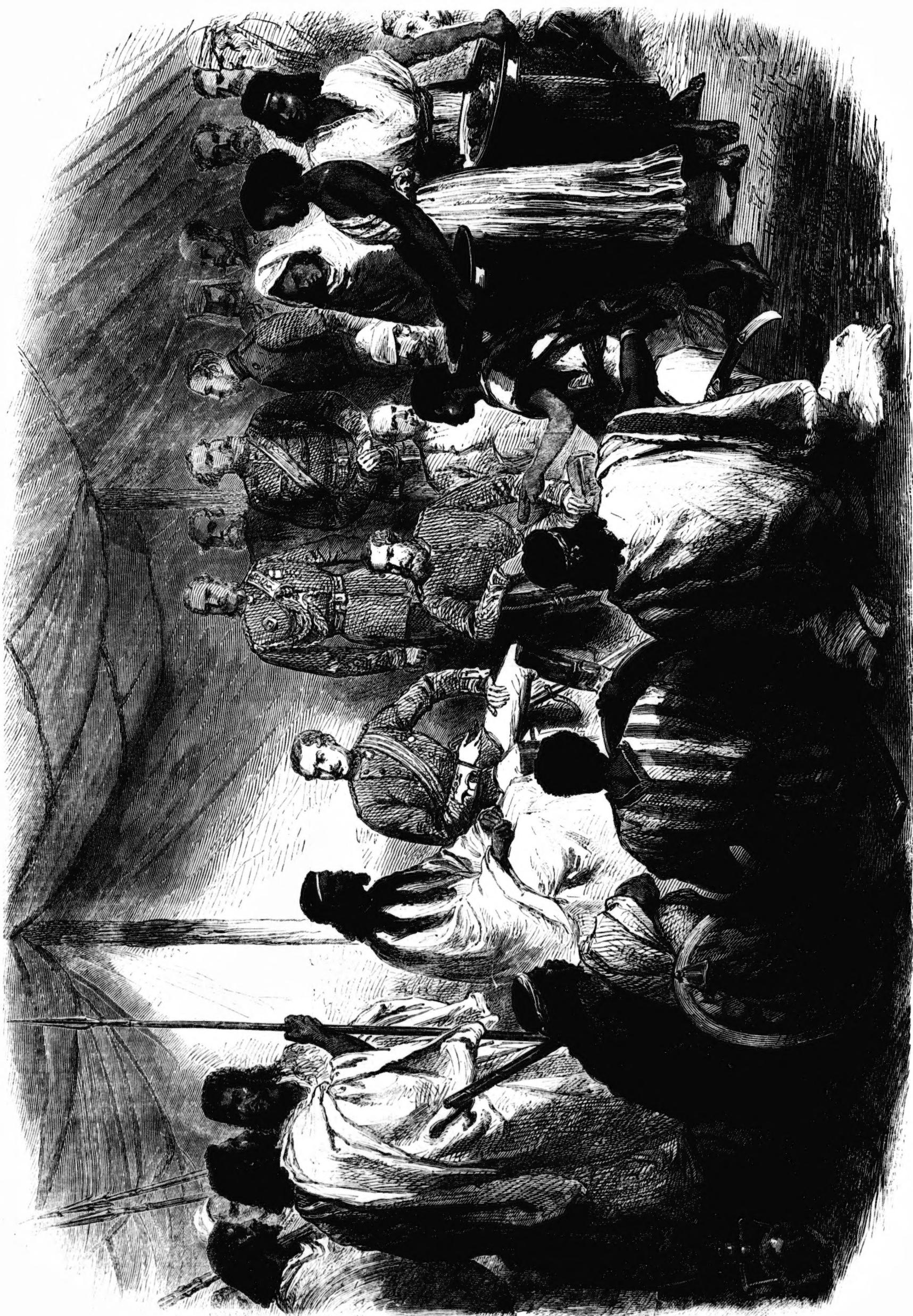
At half-past eleven o'clock, on the morning of the 22nd ult., Humbert, Prince of Piedmont, was married, in the cathedral of St. John, to his cousin, Marguerite, Princess of Savoy, by the Archbishop of Turin, Monsignore Riccardi, assisted by four Italian Bishops and a host of lesser Church dignitaries. This marriage is, in many respects, an exceptional one—particularly so in being purely and honestly one of inclination on both sides. Not very long ago propositions for the hand of the lovely Princess were made to the Duchess of Genoa on behalf of Prince Charles of Hohenzollern-Roumania; and her Royal Highness, before taking these propositions into consideration, consulted the head of the Royal family, and received the assurance of the King's approval, whichever way she might decide upon answering the youthful Hesiod's demand. Immediately after his interview with the Duchess the King acquainted the Crown Prince with the proposal in question, upon which his Royal Highness observed that he should infinitely regret its acceptance, inasmuch as he considered his fair cousin's hand to be a prize which he himself most earnestly desired to win, and at once requested the King's permission to enter the lists against the Prince of Roumania. The King very heartily accorded his consent, and straightway accompanied his son to the Duchess's palace; where, whilst his Majesty entertained his august relative in conversation, the Prince of Piedmont conducted Princess Marguerite to a window recess and asked her in so many words whether she would accept him for her husband. Having received an answer altogether satisfactory, he forthwith led the Princess back to her mother's chair, and formally solicited her hand, much to the Duchess's astonishment. The whole affair did not

occupy ten minutes. As soon as the day for the ceremony was fixed—about two months ago—no time was lost in commencing the preparation for the trousseau; and it was proposed, by those to whom this important business was confided, to order the dresses, laces, and thousand fineries of which a Princess's toilet is composed, from Paris direct. "Madame" Marguerite heard of this intention, and at once interposed, begging that all the articles of dress required for her nuptial equipment might be confided to the charitable institutions, schools, refuges, &c., of which she is an indefatigable and generous patroness. "But," she was told, "the things will be badly made." "It seems to me that, if I am satisfied with them, no one else need be discontented." "But there will be no time to complete them." "If not, let those articles which cannot be got ready by my little people be ordered from abroad, if you like; but let them be ordered by Turin tradespeople, so that my countrymen may derive whatever benefit be attainable by them from my marriage." Her wishes were obeyed to the letter, and every article of apparel and jewellery belonging to the splendid trousseau was bought and paid for in Italy.

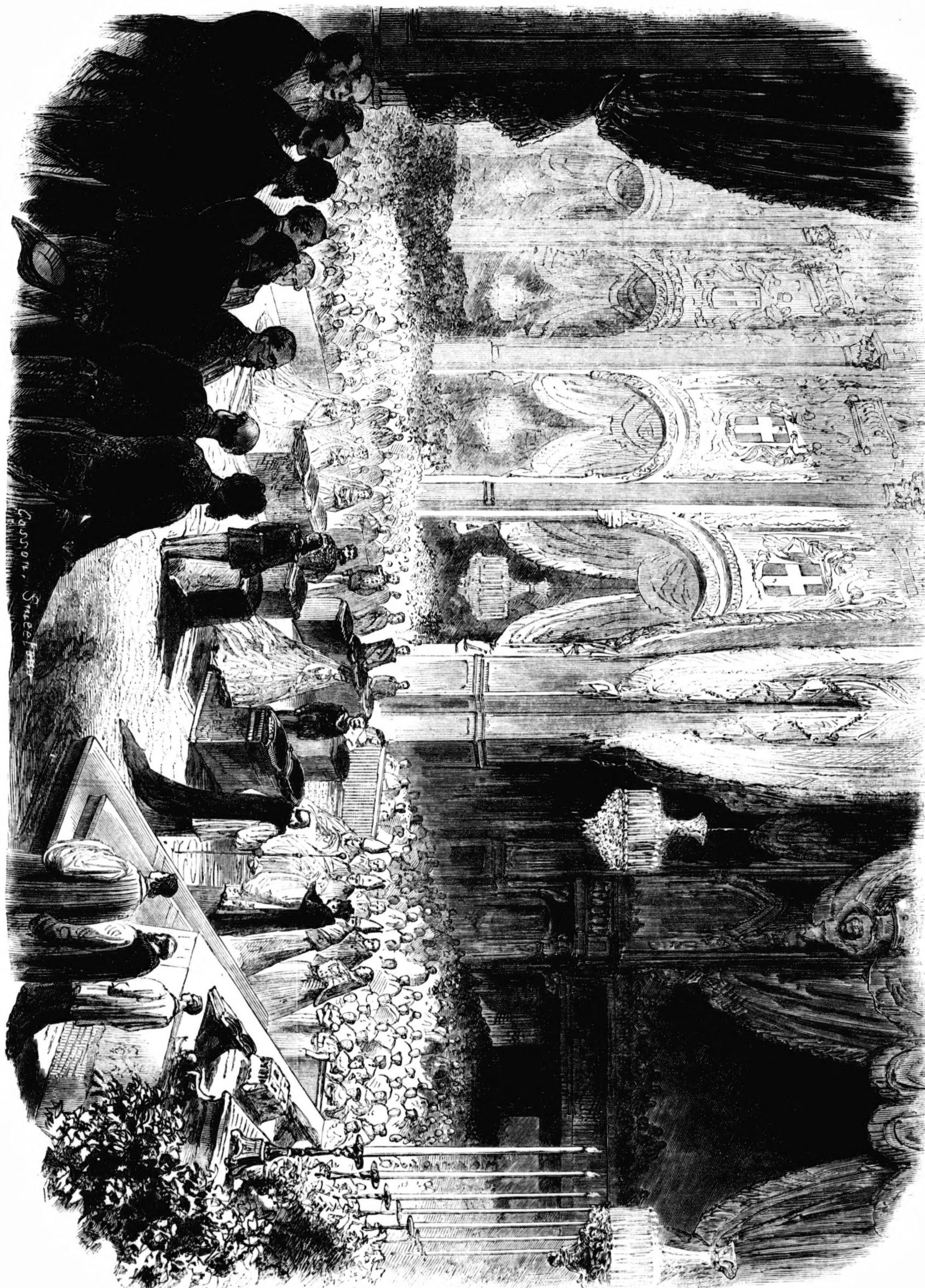
An eye-witness of the marriage ceremony says:—

"The invitations were issued for half-past nine, and when I reached the King's palace at that hour the *salons de reception* were already crowded with ladies in ravishing morning dresses (only the ladies of honour were in full costume *de cour*), scions of the ancient Piedmontese nobility, diplomacy of all lands and ages, Generals, Staff Officers, Chamberlains, *que sais-je*?—a dense throng of picturesque patricians, the men especially, offering remarkable types of physical comeliness. The position courteously assigned me was immediately behind the Knights of the Annunziata (who are, in virtue of that decoration, 'cousins' of the King and members of the Royal 'Conseil de Famille'), within about five yards of his Majesty and ten of the bride. Exactly opposite my stall was the Royal box, in which the tiny Prince of Portugal—a pretty little fair fellow of three years old, wearing already a knightly collar round his slender neck—was enthroned with his suite; to my right the high altar, adorned with masses of costly exotics; to my left, the Senators, Ministers, and Chamberlains; and immediately in front of me the *fauteuils* of the bride and bridegroom, the King and Duchess of Genoa, and the rest of the Royal family. The body of the church was filled with ladies, and the two aisles given up to men of the sword—that on the left of the altar to the officers of the National Guard, and that on the right to the regulars. Along the sides of the church wall are a number of recesses, half chapel, half niche, in which stand statues of saints, votive altars, and the like. Some dozens of young officers climbed up into these recesses, thus obtaining an admirable 'view of nothing' over the heads of their comrades, and unfortunately one small company of four or five came to grief through over-crowding, fell all in a mass down upon the crowd beneath them, and made a grand crash of helmets, sword-hilts, spurs, and sabre-taches, to their own discomfiture and the immense amusement of the numerous ladies occupying the nave of the cathedral. Shortly after this small episode the ladies of honour of the late Queen Adelaide came streaming in, gorgeous in satin and diamonds, and took possession of their stalls under the Royal box. A wonderful gathering of ancient dames, indeed—one or two so feeble and infirm that they required support into the church from the Royal apartments. Presently two coroneted ladies glided into places reserved for them near the altar—one the political *prima donna assoluta* of Italy, the other the *prima donna* of a past season—Mdines, de Menabrea and Rattazzi. The Premier himself and the 'Commander,' as everybody calls Urbano di Rattazzi, were both stationed exactly before me, amongst the King's 'cousins,' of whom I counted twelve, including the Royal Prince, Princess Carignano, Cialdini, Della Rocca, Rossi, and Cibrario. The next arrivals were the dons of the University, a few senators, and the Ministry. Then all the bells began to ring, half a dozen military bands outside the church struck up different tunes, the organ pealed out something that sounded like musical thunder and lightning, with a touch of earthquake; and the bridal party entered the cathedral by the private door communicating with the palace, in the following order, the drummers of the National Guard beating a tremendous roll the while:—The Prince of Piedmont and Mdine, Marguerite de Savoie, the King and the Duchess of Genoa, the Crown Prince of Prussia and the Queen of Portugal, the Prince Napoleon and the Duchess of Aosta, the Duke of Aosta and Princess Maria-Clothes; *en avant*, the Marquis de Brém (Duc di Sarlirana) and Count di Panisera, respectively Lord High Chamberlain and Master of the Ceremonies; the Court, the Corps Diplomatique, a stray Minister or two, and a crowd of Generals. The bride and bridegroom occupied two fauteuils about ten yards from the altar steps; a little further back, to their right and left, sat the King and the Duchess of Genoa, flanked by the two witnesses or sponsors, the Prince de Carignano and the Marquis d'Alfieri, qualified for their dignified position by the fact of being the two oldest Knights of the Annunziata; again, further backwards, the Queen of Portugal, Princess Napoleon, and Duchess of Aosta, behind the King; and the Crown Prince of Prussia, Prince Napoleon, Prince Amadeus, and Prince Thomas of Genoa, behind the Duchess of Genoa. As soon as all had settled into their appointed places the religious ceremony commenced, to which, I am bound in truth to say, the Prince of Piedmont paid but little attention; nor did the lovely Marguerite—who made, by-the-by, a delicious little curtsey to her mamma when the time arrived for giving the formal consent of the parents to the marriage—appear to be half so much impressed by the solemnity of the sacred rite as by the intense and absorbing happiness of being near her chosen husband. I never saw innocent affection more frankly and naively demonstrated by one person towards another than by the sweet young Princess—she is only just sixteen—towards the stern and soldierly-looking heir to the throne of Italy. Whilst the Prince and Princess knelt at the altar, Prince Carignano and Marquis d'Alfieri held over their heads a broad scarf of cloth of silver, and, as soon as they had returned to their original places, Archibishop Riccardi pronounced in Italian a lengthy nuptial admonition. After ten minutes or so of vigorous adulation, the reverend gentleman proceeded to elevate the Host and perform the rest of the part assigned him, leading off the "Te Deum." Perhaps Signor Riccardi's exhaustive laudation of things and persons mundane may have brought on a slight hoarseness; at all events, everybody seemed very glad when the ecclesiastical melodists got to their last "Amen," after intoning which in half a dozen keys they formed in procession and marched out of the inclosed space before the altar, leaving the Royal party to follow their example, but in an opposite direction. The King chatted for a few moments with his eldest son and the bride, his niece-daughter, and then gave the signal for breaking up by offering his arm to the Duchess of Genoa, with whom he left the church, followed by the rest of the Royal family and guests, in the same order as above."

WORKHOUSE MEDICAL OFFICERS.—The Poor-Law Board has issued a new order for regulating the duties of workhouse medical officers, and imposing additional duties upon them. They are required to keep a book, to be termed the "workhouse medical officer's book," in which is to be entered in writing every report made by them to the board of guardians, as to the defects in the diet, drugs, ventilation, warmth, and other arrangements of the workhouse, as to any excess in the number of any class of inmates which may be deemed to be detrimental to health; as to every defect in the arrangements of the infirmary or sick-wards, and in the performance of their duties by the nurses of the sick; and, further, a report of any other matter requiring the attention of the guardians, and such recommendations as may be thought right to be submitted to the guardians. The book is to be laid before the guardians at their meetings, and also before the visiting committee and inspectors of the Poor-Law Board when required. All medicines and extras to be supplied are to be entered on a card to be affixed at or near the head of the bed of the patient. The new duties required of workhouse medical officers are:—To report to the Poor-Law Board every case of sudden or accidental death occurring in workhouses, with the cause of death, within twenty-four hours of receiving information of the same; and also to report to the Poor-Law Board every six months, without the intervention of the guardians, on the ventilation, warmth, accommodation for the several classes, the cookery and distribution of food, the nursing, the supply of towels, vessels, bedding, clothing, conveniences, medical appliances, water, beds, lavatories and baths, and the supply and distribution of hot and cold water.



INTERVIEW BETWEEN SIR ROBERT NAPIER AND THE KING OF TIGRE, ABBYSSINIA.



THE MARRIAGE OF PRINCE HUMBERT AND PRINCESS MARGUERITE IN THE CATHEDRAL, TURIN.

*Garrison, Street-Boat*

## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 330.

## A CURIOUS AND NOVEL INCIDENT.

ON Thursday evening last week, just as Sir Michael Hicks Beach was about to rise to recommence the debate upon the Irish Church, we had a small episode, or prologue, which caused no little excitement for a time. It is highly probable that many of our readers did not clearly understand this small matter as it was reported in the papers. We will, therefore, explain it. Prior to the year 1866, Irish members, on entering Parliament, had to take an oath different to that which English members took, and in that special oath there was this sentence:—"I do hereby disclaim, disavow, and solemnly abjure any intention to subvert the present Church Establishment as settled by law in this realm; and I do solemnly swear that I will never exercise any privilege to which I am or may become entitled to disturb or weaken the Protestant religion or Protestant Government in the United Kingdom." This was what the Irish members swore prior to 1866. In that year, however, all this was, by Act of Parliament, obliterated from the oath. But in 1865 we had a general election, and, of course, all the Irish members then elected took the old oath. Query—Are they bound by the oath which they took (which is now abolished) or by the new oath? Captain Surtees, the member for South Durham, thinks that they are bound by the old oath. They took that oath, and how can they be released from it? Such was the opinion of the hon. member, and, thinking to catch the Irish Catholic members in a trap, he rose and moved that the old oath be read by the clerk. Loud groans from the Opposition side of the House assailed this motion, whilst from the Ministerial side there came a chorus of what we may call chuckling cheers, as much as to say, "There, if you Irish fellows vote, you will be forsown. If you don't vote, some forty-five voices will be knocked off the majority." Mr. Speaker put the question whether the oath should be read. Whereupon Mr. Bouvierie, a great authority on all matters of order, submitted that it would be contrary to order to read this old oath, as it is not in existence. "You can," he said, "no more call upon the clerk to read it than you can call upon him to read a passage of Hume's 'History of England.' It is not law, it is history; and the clerk don't read history at the table." "No," said Mr. Surtees, or meant to say; "but I apprehend that the honourable members who took the old oath are still bound by it." So matters stood, when suddenly Mr. Speaker rose. We thought, when we saw him rise, that he was going to decide upon the point of order raised by Mr. Bouvierie. Sir Erskine May, the first clerk-assistant, had been conferring with Mr. Speaker, and we, and all the House, we suspect, thought that they had been considering Mr. Bouvierie's point—"Can the House call upon its clerk to read a passage from a repealed Act?" "Never point, this," we said, as we saw Sir Erskine whispering into the Speaker's ear; "and Sir Erskine is coaching up Mr. Speaker thereupon." But Mr. Speaker, to our surprise, gave no opinion upon Mr. Bouvierie's objection; but replied to Mr. Surtees, and said, "I think that the oath should apply to the members who have taken it before the alteration." Now, we humbly submit that in giving this opinion the Speaker travelled away quite beyond his duty. The question raised by Mr. Bouvierie was clearly within his jurisdiction; but the question whether an oath abolished by statute is still binding upon those who took it cannot be settled from the chain in this summary way. Who could settle this knotty point of casuistry, one hardly knows. Perhaps the House might determine whether it did or did not, when it passed the Act of 1866, mean to absolve the Irish members from the oath which they took in 1865. But the House does not usually interpret Acts of Parliament. When an Act is once passed, it goes entirely out of the hands of the Legislature and passes into the hands of the Judges, whose duty it is, as occasion arises, to explain its meaning. Perhaps the best course for Mr. Surtees to adopt, if he be not already satisfied, would be to indict some Irish member who voted in the majority for perjury.

## GLADSTONE BRUSHES AWAY COBWEBS.

Mr. Gladstone all this while had been in his seat looking as eager and as impatient as a greyhound in a slip, and, as soon as Mr. Speaker sat down, leaped to his feet, and, in a few passionate words, which called forth equally passionate cheers from his supporters, brushed away indignantly all those casuistic cobwebs, and boldly declared that this was an attempt "to stir up the embers of religious animosity and to narrow the privileges of the members of the House, and that the Roman Catholic members have precisely the same powers and rights, and to the same scope and extent, as are possessed by any other members of the House." It is a treat to see and hear Gladstone when he is excited, as he was on this occasion. How grandly impetuous is the flow of his language, and how all his features seem to light up! A French gentleman who had just been listening to one of Gladstone's most eloquent speeches said to us, "Mr. Gladstone does not only speak with his mouth, but all his features do speak." Gladstone's enemies call this excitement temper. It is a libel; and, we suspect, they know it. Indignation at wrong is not bad temper. Was Cicero, when he poured the lava of his indignation upon the head of Catiline, out of temper? We never saw Gladstone really out of temper but once; and that was many years ago, when a young member, under excitement, at three o'clock in the morning, kept "nagging" at the Government financial policy, which he could no more comprehend than he could discover the longitude. Whilst Gladstone was speaking, and the cheers of the Liberal members were echoing through the House, Captain Surtees must have felt rather small; but he must have felt quite diminutive—a mere nobody—when his leader, whom he had not consulted before he made this unwise party move, deliberately threw him over both in the matter of form and substance. The Prime Minister sympathised with the right hon. member for Kilmarnock (Mr. Bouvierie); and, the Speaker's dictum to the contrary notwithstanding, hinted that the Roman Catholic had a right in equity to vote. "There, Captain, take your change out of that!" as Mr. Joseph Hume once said in the House. The gallant Captain, abashed, wished to sneak out of his difficulty by withdrawing his motion; but the Liberal party, flushed by a sense of its strength, and indignant at this unworthy attempt to sap it, insisted that the question should be put and negatived, as, accordingly, it was. And now, perhaps, our readers will ask what our opinion is upon this subject. Well, our judgment is decidedly that an oath abolished by statute has no power. The Act which abolished it equitably absolves those who took it. But, further, after studying the old oath, we can see nothing in that to prevent a Roman Catholic from voting upon this question. We have given to this subject a good deal of space; our excuse is that it is novel, and to get it well explained much space was necessary.

## MR. REARDEN STOPS THE WAY.

When this was settled the House went into Committee, and Sir Michael Hicks Beach rose to speak, but was stopped by the emergence from the crowd below the gangway, on the Opposition side, of that lively, irrepressible, self-important little body, Mr. Rearden, the Piccadilly auctioneer, whom the 246 free and independent electors of Athlone (or rather 167 of them) did us the honour to send to Parliament. Mr. Dennis Joseph Rearden, though he lives in London, is Irish—real, genuine Irish—and a Roman Catholic; but by what charms he succeeded in persuading the 167 electors of Athlone aforesaid to discard their old member, John Ennis, a wealthy landed proprietor in the neighbourhood, and send here Mr. Joseph Dennis Rearden, is altogether a mystery to us. Mr. Rearden is a "Repaler," and, perhaps, it was the hope of getting "repale" that induced the 167 to send Mr. Rearden to Parliament. But on this subject we are altogether in the dark. All we know is that they did elect him, and here he is; and a very lively, fidgety little man he is, like to nothing so much, we think, as those house sparrows which all the while we have been writing have been hopping about a tree before our window, twittering merrily as they hop. The restlessness of these birds is surprising, and the restlessness of Mr. Rearden is at least curious. But let not Mr. Rearden be offended; we are going to speak well of him. When he first came into the House, members of the aristocratic class used to cock their glasses to their eyes, and, looking at

Mr. Rearden, would ask "Who's that?" and when they heard that he was an auctioneer, of course there was some sneering cynical remark. Well, we have no sympathy with these haughty sneers. There is nothing in the calling of an auctioneer, nor any other honest calling, that should prevent a man from coming here. We are of opinion that all classes should be represented in Parliament. Moreover, men following honest callings are at least as valuable to us as those who follow none except fox-hunting three days a week and shooting pheasants and partridges two. Further, Mr. Rearden is not without talents. He can speak fluently, as all Irishmen can, and every now and then a flash of good sense comes from him which surprises his hearers. Thus, when the House was discussing the Burials Bill (Ireland)—a bill to compel incumbents to allow Dissenters to bury their dead according to their own forms in the churchyards—Mr. Rearden, after listening to the arguments against the bill, rose and said, "Ireland is a country in which poor Roman Catholics cannot live, nor die, nor be buried in peace." Then, again, Mr. Rearden speaks very courageously, and occasionally utters disagreeable truths which members usually shrink from telling. For example, on this very night he began his speech by quoting these remarkable lines:

As long as millions shall kneel down  
To ask of thousands for their own;  
While thousands proudly turn away,  
And to the millions answer "Nay";  
So long in Ireland the reign shall be  
Of Captain Rock and his family.

## THE DEBATE AND DIVISION.

But why did Mr. Rearden interrupt Sir Michael? Because, as having moved that the Chairman do report progress on Tuesday, he claimed the right to begin the debate on Thursday. Mr. Dodson promptly undeceived him. When a member moves the adjournment of a debate in the House, he has the right, by law or courtesy, to begin it when said debate is renewed; but when the House is in Committee debates are not adjourned. A member, wishing to stop the debate, moves that the Chairman do report progress; but, by making this motion, he does not get the right of priority in speaking when the Committee sits again. And so Mr. Rearden had to sit down. This interruption over, Sir Michael turned on his stream of talk, which continued to run with dull, even flow, in a thin House, for an hour or more. And now we must dismiss the proceedings of this night with a single remark. The talk, on the whole, was much like the talk of the former nights of the debate—very slow and dull, with the exception of an excellent speech from Mr. Baxter, until late in the night, when Mr. Gladstone rose and lifted the discussion to the height of the great argument. He was followed by Mr. Disraeli, in whose hands it sunk to its normal dead level again. We never heard the Prime Minister speak with so little spirit. When he sat down the division was called, with what result we know. The majority against the Government was a foregone conclusion, and though there was much cheering it was not enthusiastic.

## A FULL HOUSE AND A GREAT ACTOR.

On Monday, when it was known that Disraeli would divulge the result of his interview with the Queen, which result had been kept as no secret of the kind had ever in our recollection been kept before, the House was as full as it could be, and more so—overflowing full. The crowd surged over into the up stairs lobbies, where members had to stand, craning their heads over the shoulders of others to catch the secret as it slowly dripped, drop by drop, from the Premier's lips. Mr. Disraeli, as he entered, was loudly cheered by his friends. Soon afterwards Gladstone came, and, of course, the House gave him a cheer; each party backing its man, after the manner of the fancy when two pugilists step into the ring. A deathlike silence fell upon the House when Disraeli rose. And how solemn he looked! He seemed to be weighed down by the gravity of his position. Was this solemnity real or assumed? Who can tell?—who can unriddle this wonderful sphinx? We are disposed to say that Disraeli, on this occasion, as on all others, was a mere histrion or theatrical performer—caring only to perform his part well and earn an actor's fame. He once said, or is reported to have said, "Fame! What are we all here for but to achieve fame?" And at times we suspect that the one object of his life on the great political stage has been to conquer fame as the greatest actor of the day. Well, on this occasion he had clearly, as we soon saw, well studied his part. He spoke in his best style—in what we have more than once called his early evening style—calmly, sedately, in measured, stately sentences; every word of which had been carefully selected to reveal, or, as some suspected, to conceal, his thoughts. The speech was, in truth, an artistic success; nothing more perfectly artistic was ever delivered in the House. So perfect was it that, as we listened to it, we, old stagers as we are, were almost led to believe that we had got from the Conservative leader simple unvarnished sincerity at last. In short, it was a speech calculated to deceive the most acute. The spell was, though, whilst we were intently listening, towards the end rather rudely disturbed by a chuckling laugh from a member near us. "What are you laughing at?" said we, rather sharply. "Why," he replied, "to see how this fellow is again trying to humbug us. 'Humbug us!' Don't you think it is true?" "Not exactly," he answered. "But Gladstone is up. Let us see whether he is humbugged."

## DISENCHANTMENT.

No; he was not to be humbugged. This word is not Parliamentary, but it is a good word nevertheless, and it has got into all our later dictionaries—so let it pass. For a time, all the Conservative party were under the power of the magician, and perhaps he had succeeded in throwing over many of the Liberals his potent spell; but before Gladstone had finished the spell was partly dissolved; and after Lowe had spoken, and Bouvierie, and Bright—who is, perhaps, the most powerful exorciser of evil and false spirits that we have—the illusions had all passed away, and the effect of the magician's "brewed enchantments" was dispelled. Ingenious rhetoric can do much to deceive mankind, but it is quite impotent when confronted with the Ithuriel spear of simple integrity and truth. Disraeli, when he rose to reply, dropped the mask, and, like a stag at bay, boldly challenged a vote of want of confidence. This challenge was received with loud cheers by the Liberals—as much as to say, "It may come to that before long."

## BATING THE BADGER.

On Tuesday we had another scene in this strange, eventful history, only less exciting than that of Monday because the audience was not so numerous. On Monday night, in another place, the Duke of Richmond had said that her Majesty had given the Prime Minister a sort of carte blanche to dissolve whenever he pleased, whereas the Premier had implied that he had received permission to dissolve only in certain defined circumstances. Here there is a discrepancy. Which statement is true, that of the Premier or that of the Duke? We must have it out! Such was the determination of the leaders of the Opposition; and at half-past four said leaders were all to the front, once more, to draw the badger. Gladstone led, of course; but in truth he did not do his work over well. He was too solemn, formal, parsonic, as occasionally he has been of late; and on this occasion you might, if you had not seen him, have fancied he was in a pulpit. He should, by all means, drop this sermonising style. However, he drew the badger; for, immediately after Gladstone had finished, Disraeli rose. But very little could be got out of him; and it was only after he had been pained by a succession of members—Bouvierie, Ayrton (who gave him an awful shaking—Ayrton always bites home), Cardwell, Whitbread (whose attack was all the more effective because he is generally so calm and moderate), &c.—that he opened at last, and deliberately threw over the Duke, and declared that he had only permission to dissolve upon the Irish question.

THE DUBLIN DISTRICT COMMITTEE of the Wesleyan denomination, consisting of the ministers and laymen of the "circuits" of the body in that city have agreed upon a recommendation to the next Irish Conference "in favour of universal disendowment, as against any State endowment of the clergy or institutions of the Roman Catholic Church."

## Imperial Parliament.

MONDAY, MAY 4.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE MINISTERIAL CRISIS.

The Earl of MELMESBURY explained the course taken by the Government in consequence of the adverse vote of the Commons on Thursday night last, and announced that they had determined, with the consent of her Majesty, to expedite the measures now before Parliament and appeal to the country as soon as the state of public affairs would permit.

Earl GREY protested against the doctrine that Ministers were justified in being defeated was not brought prominently forward at the last election.

The LORD CHANCELLOR contended that, as the present Parliament had been elected under the auspices of Lord Palmerston, and without reference to the disestablishment of the Irish Church, it was an occasion on which Ministers might fairly tender the advice which Mr. Disraeli had given to the Sovereign.

The Duke of SOMERSET inquired whether the Government meant to appeal to the old or the new constituencies, or if they had made up their mind at all on the subject.

The Duke of RICHMOND replied that they had most distinctly made up their minds, and that it must depend upon the state of affairs whether the dissolution was to be with the present or the new constituency. If Ministers were able to carry on the public business until the new constituencies could be appealed to, that course would be taken; but her Majesty had been pleased to say that if it were necessary to give the Ministry the advantage of a dissolution at an earlier period she would be prepared to do so.

The Earl of FAVERSHAM having expressed approval of the course adopted by the Government and of their general policy, the matter was allowed to drop.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. Ramsay took his seat for the Stirling burghs, in the room of Mr. Oliphant; Lord Ingester, for Stamford, in the room of Viscount Cranborne; and Mr. Femberton, for East Kent, in the room of Sir B. Bridges.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT.

Mr. DISRAELI, in the midst of an anxiously-expectant audience, having reminded the House that on Thursday night he declared that the adverse division on the Irish Church had altered the relations between the Government and the House, and that it would be necessary for the former to consider their position, for which purpose he asked the House to adjourn for a few days, now requested further leave to make a statement upon the subject, and give the result of considering the question and the course which they thought it their duty to pursue. The right hon. gentleman then reviewed the circumstances under which the Earl of Derby undertook the Government in 1866, and the way in which the Ministry had conducted the affairs of the country up to the moment when the House was asked to consider a policy of a startling character, which was no less than the disestablishment of the Church in a portion of her Majesty's dominions. This proposal Ministers had resisted for reasons which were fresh in the recollection of all; but the House decided in favour of the motion. After that vote of Thursday he lost no time in obtaining an audience with her Majesty, which she was graciously pleased to accord to him in the afternoon of Friday. On that occasion he placed fully and fairly before the Queen the position of the Government, of parties, and of the country, and he told her Majesty that the advice which Ministers, under the circumstances and in the true spirit of the Constitution, were prepared to offer her was, that she should dissolve this Parliament and take the opinion of the country upon the conduct of the Government and upon the question at issue. At the same time he represented that there were important occasions on which it was wise that the Sovereign should not be embarrassed by personal claims, however constitutional, valid, or meritorious; and that if her Majesty was of opinion that the question at issue could be more satisfactorily settled, or the just interests of the country more studied, by the immediate retirement of the present Government from office, they were prepared at once to quit her service. He then tendered his resignation to the Queen, who commanded him to attend her in audience on the next day, when she expressed her pleasure not to accept the resignation of her Ministers, and her readiness to dissolve the present Parliament so soon as the state of public business would permit. Under these circumstances he advised her Majesty, although the representatives of the existing constituency were no doubt as morally competent to decide upon the question of the disestablishment of the Irish Church as the representatives of the new constituency, still it was the opinion of Ministers that every effort should be made for appealing, if possible, to the new constituency, and he stated that if the Government had the cordial co-operation of Parliament he was advised by those who were experienced in this matter that it would be possible to make arrangements by which that dissolution might take place in the coming autumn. With regard to the second and third resolutions on the Irish Church, having disapproved of the first, he of course disapproved of the second and the third, which he looked upon as corollaries of the first. With a view to the dispatch of business, however, he would not enter into protracted and formal discussions upon them, although he should offer them a hearty negative; but he would be happy to devote the earliest possible day at the disposal of the Government for their consideration.

Mr. GLADSTONE challenged Mr. Disraeli to mention a case in the whole history of the country where a Minister who had been twice defeated by a majority of 60 and 65 advised a resort to dissolution. There were two conditions necessary for making a legitimate appeal to the country. One was an adequate case of public policy, the other a rational expectation of reversing a decision; and he contended that on these principles the right hon. gentleman was not well justified in his advice. The fate of the Minister was in the first instance in his own hands. For his, Mr. Gladstone's, part, he had other matters to consider which demanded and absorbed his whole attention, and in reference to these his intentions had the advantage of being in their nature clear, simple, and decisive. One question paramount to every other was that of the Imperial relations between England and Ireland, and the branch of that question which partly the proceedings of the Government, partly the state of affairs out of doors, and partly, if they liked, the proceedings of the Opposition, had thrust into the foreground, he meant the Irish Church. What he held respecting this subject might be summed up in two propositions: that it was the duty of Ministers emphatically, intelligently, and without delay, to declare their mind as to whether the establishment of the Irish Church ought or ought not to continue, and that the abstract resolutions ought to be followed up by the passing forthwith a suspensive Act respecting the Irish Church, which should have the effect of distinctly declaring the mind of the present Parliament, and of preparing the way for the action of the next Parliament. Meanwhile he accepted the offer of an early day for proceeding with the two remaining resolutions.

Mr. LOWE announced upon the unconstitutional policy of the Government, which appeared to him to be animated by the lowest motives of personal aggrandisement. If the House was prepared to submit to it, the conduct of public affairs would be left for nearly twelve months in the hands of a Government against which the censure of the House of Commons had been recorded.

Mr. NEWDEGATE eulogised the conduct of the Government, and expressed his opinion that the country would not sanction the vote arrived at by the majority of the House.

Mr. AYRTON protested against the tone of injured innocence assumed by the Premier, as if he was holding office at the express desire of the Sovereign. If the Government, after two successive defeats, chose to remain in power, they must make up their minds to do the work of the Opposition, and not shift the responsibility upon the Queen.

Mr. BOUVIERIE characterised the conduct of the Government as mischievous, anomalous, and unconstitutional, and expressed his apprehension that it would lead to a revival of differences between the House of Commons and the Crown.

Mr. BRIGHT commented with great severity upon the unconstitutional and outrageous course adopted by her Majesty's Ministers, which he predicted would do much to destroy the conciliatory feeling which was springing up in Ireland. The position of the Government was in the last degree humiliating, and it was evident they meant to stick to the Treasury bench until expelled by some offensive vote.

Mr. KENDALL thought the Premier would have betrayed his party if he had resigned his office.

Mr. DISRAELI said he had been informed by those qualified to give information on the subject that, if the Boundary Bill could be passed in the early portion of June, it would be possible to have the dissolution in November. The right hon. gentleman added, in reference to the taunts of Mr. Bouvierie and Mr. Bright, that the candid way to criticise the general policy of the Government would be to move a vote of want of confidence, so that there might be an immediate appeal to the country.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

The House having gone into Committee of Ways and Means, and the resolution imposing the income tax having been proposed,

Mr. GLADSTONE briefly reviewed the financial propositions of the Government, contending that the Estimates had gradually increased since the present Government came into office, and had now become swollen to an inordinate and dangerous extent, owing chiefly to the large expenditure on account of the Army and Navy.

The defence of the Estimates was undertaken by Sir John Pakington, Mr. Corry, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the first mentioned reminding the House that a large expenditure had been incurred on account of fortifications originally suggested by Lord Palmerston. These works, with the necessary artillery, would, he feared, still require a sum of between four and five millions to complete them.

Some discussion followed, and the resolution was agreed to, as was that authorising the issue of a million of Exchequer Bonds.

TUESDAY, MAY 5.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of LICHFIELD moved the second reading of his Friendly Societies Bill, the provisions of which he explained, and at the same time vindicated the motives which influenced him in proposing the measure.

After some conversation, the motion was agreed to, on the understanding that Lord Lichfield would not press the bill beyond the present stage until the whole question had been investigated by a Royal Commission.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS.

Mr. GLADSTONE, directing attention to the explanation of Mr. Disraeli on the previous night of his recent audience with her Majesty, and the advice he had tendered to her on the occasion, complained of the apparent discrepancy between that explanation and the one given in the House of Lords by the Duke of Richmond. According to the latter, it appeared that the Prime Minister went down to Osborne and tendered the resignation of the Government, without one word being said at that time about a dissolution. He then went on to say that her Majesty declined to accept their resignation, and that, in the event of any difficulties arising, the Queen was graciously pleased to say that she would make no objection to a dissolution of Parliament. It would, of course, depend upon the state of affairs whether that dissolution would be a dissolution under the existing or under the new constituency, but her Majesty was pleased to say that she would make no objection to either course being adopted by her advisers, whenever they should see fit to tender that recommendation. They were told, then, by the Duke of Richmond that leave for a dissolution had been obtained in case difficulties should arise; in other words, if the vote of the House should be displeasing to Ministers, and this leave was flaunted in the face of the House. He wished to know whether this language was avowed or disavowed by the Government as a whole.

Mr. DISRAELI admitted that it was for the interest of both sides of the House that there should be no misunderstanding on this matter of this kind. He repeated, therefore, what occurred when he had an audience of her Majesty. After putting her in possession of the views of the Government with respect to their position, he at once recommended that, in the present state of affairs, not only in justice to the Government themselves, but for the sake of the decision of the country on the great issue at stake, that there should be a dissolution of Parliament. To this he added the observation that, if her Majesty thought a more satisfactory settlement of the question at issue would be better secured by Ministers immediately retiring from her service, they were prepared to take that course. His advice, given with the full consent of his colleagues, was that there should be a dissolution of Parliament as soon as the state of public business would permit; and her Majesty, without reference to the constituencies, sanctioned that advice and expressed her readiness to act upon it. Her Majesty was in possession of the fact that there was an existing constituency as well as a new constituency; it was unnecessary, therefore, that he should introduce that subject to her attention. And he had entertained the hope that, by the House confining its attention to the measures supplementary to the Reform Act, and acting with Ministers cordially in the matter, affairs might be brought to such a conclusion that an appeal might be made to the new constituencies. As the Minister who had been in audience with her Majesty, and received her permission to communicate the result of his interview to the House, his statement might be taken as the authentic one. He was not aware that any other had been made elsewhere; but, if a different impression had been conveyed by his colleague in the House of Lords, the logical course was to call upon that colleague to explain the alleged discrepancy between the two statements.

A rather long debate on the question followed, in the course of which the Premier was charged with having unconstitutionally used the name of her Majesty. At its conclusion,

Mr. DISRAELI denied that he had introduced the name of her Majesty in any other way than in the spirit of the Constitution. He went on to say that the advice which he gave to the Queen to dissolve was confined solely to the question of the Irish Church, and if difficulties arose in the conduct of affairs, and it appeared to him and his colleagues that such advice should be given in reference to any other subject, it would then be his duty to repair to her Majesty again.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Mines Assessment Bill was moved, on the second reading, by Mr. P. WYNNDHAM, who explained that its object was to repeal the law which exempted mines from chargeability to poor rates. The measure, with some slight alterations, was identically the same as that which the House read a second time last year: and the discussion, which was conducted almost entirely by members from the mining districts, was restricted to details, the principle being generally approved.

Mr. DENMAN, however, warned the House that if the bill became law it would be certain to raise the question whether the highway rate also ought longer to continue a charge payable only in respect of real property.

Eventually the second reading was agreed to.

The Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Court Bill and the Cotton Statistics Bill were read the second time, and the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Bill was advanced a stage.

THURSDAY, MAY 7.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Viscount Cranborne took the oaths and his seat as the Marquis of Salisbury.

The Duke of RICHMOND moved that the Capital Punishment Within Prisons Bill be read the second time.

Lord CRANWORTH expressed his approval of the bill.

After some observations from Lord HOUGHTON, the bill was read the second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE IRISH CHURCH.

The House then went into Committee on the Established Church (Ireland). Mr. VERNER asked if it was the intention of Mr. Gladstone, after the opinion of the prelates at a meeting held on the preceding day, to proceed with his resolutions.

Mr. GLADSTONE said the questioner went beyond Parliamentary practice. In this free country all persons were entitled to have and express their opinions; but, with all due respect to the eminent persons alluded to by the hon. member, he must attach greater weight and authority to the opinion declared by a great majority of the House of Commons. He then proceeded to introduce the second of his resolutions. He replied to the charge which had been frequently made that this was an abstract declaration of opinion. He would never be a party to a mere abstract motion if he had not intended to make it the basis of a practical step, and to follow it up at once by a practical measure. For he would freely admit that unless this was done, and done immediately, it would be the duty of the Government on any vacancy being created to fill it up as if the resolution had never been passed. Referring to the present state of the Irish Church, he was not aware until lately how completely the Church Temporalities Act had failed to remove the gross scandals which had formerly been so notorious; and he cited instances of cases in which, where the benefice was of considerable value, the Protestant population was a mere fraction, whilst the Roman Catholic was very considerable. Now, all he asked was that for a period, necessarily very brief, these benefices, if they became vacant, should not be filled up. By the plan which he recommended, no Bishop or clergyman would be affected during his lifetime, but until the vacancies occurred there would be time allowed for the substitution of a voluntary system, and what he desired to provide was that during this transition period no new vested interests, from which now all the difficulty arose, should be created.

Mr. HARDY said that the object of the Government was very different from that of the other side. The latter wished to destroy the Established Church in Ireland. The former were quite ready to remove all abuses and to do all in their power to make that Church as effective as possible. Their opinions were thus far quite irreconcilable, but he was quite ready to admit that the Government had already met with as great a defeat as it possibly could on this question. Therefore, although the Government could not assent either to the resolutions or to the bill which was to be brought as their result, they felt that, with the view of expediting the public business, as they had already undertaken to do, it was not desirable to prolong the discussion, and he hoped that the resolution would be met with a negative only, without giving the House the trouble to divide.

After some remarks from Mr. NEWDEGATE and Mr. WHALLEY, Sir F. HEYGATE acquiesced in the course suggested by Mr. Hardy; and the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. GLADSTONE then moved the third resolution as follows:—"That an humble address be presented to her Majesty, humbly to pray that, with a view of preventing, by legislation during the present Session, the creation of new personal interests through the exercise of any public patronage, her Majesty would be graciously pleased to place at the disposal of Parliament her interest in the temporalities of the archbishops, bishops, and other ecclesiastical dignities and benefices in Ireland and in the custody thereof."

After a protest from Mr. LEFROY and Mr. D. GRIFFITH, the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. LAING, whilst withdrawing the resolution of which he had given notice, suggested the advisability, on the part of the Government, to take the sense of the country upon the issue now raised.

Mr. S. AYTOON moved a resolution declaring that, together with the disestablishment and disendowment of the Anglican Church in Ireland, the Maynooth grant and the Regium Denuum should be discontinued; and that no part of the funds of the Church or of the States should be applied to the endowment or furtherance of the Roman Catholic religion in Ireland or to the establishment or maintenance of Roman Catholic denominational schools or colleges. After some discussion, the resolution was negatived by a majority of 198 to 85.

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## ILLUSTRATED TIMES

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1868.

## THE FRENCH ARMY.

THE report that France and Prussia had come to an understanding to reduce their forces has not, as yet, been justified by facts. A few French soldiers have been sent home on leave, liable at any moment to be recalled. That is all the reduction that has taken place on the French side; while on the side of Prussia there has been no greater change. However, the army of Prussia, composed as it is partly of regular troops, partly of militia on active service, and partly of militia reserves, is no menace to the peace of Europe; whereas the French army is a perpetual source of danger. Whatever may be the wish of the Emperor and of France as a nation in respect to peace, it is certain that the French army longs for war. France has no cause of quarrel in any part of the world. No country is doing her, or wishes to do her, the least harm. But the French army, two years ago, considered itself the first in Europe, and believed it was so considered by all other nations, whereas it is now convinced that it holds only the second place in general esteem. Naturally, then, it wishes to regain its old position, which, it fancies, should belong to it as a matter of course. French troops proved themselves more than a match for Russian troops in the Crimea, and just a little better than Austrian troops in Italy. But they have not tried their hands against Prussians; and it has struck everyone that the Prussians beat the Austrians much more quickly and much more thoroughly in Bohemia than the French did in Italy. The French have shown that they can manage to overcome the Austrians; but the Prussians have shown that they can rout them; and, putting these two facts together, the world naturally concludes that the soldiers of Prussia are more than equal to those of France.

It seems rather hard that Europe should be deluged in blood in order that the French army may have an opportunity of proving how well it can fight; but the war-cry in military circles and in the garrison towns of France has really no other origin. In England the Army has, fortunately, no distinctive influence on public affairs. The feeling of the English Army is, almost invariably, the feeling of the nation, to which it belongs and of which it forms an integral part; and, were it otherwise, our Army is so small that its opinions and views could safely be disregarded. It is very different in France, where the army, though looked upon as the chief stay of the nation, is yet something apart from the nation; where, moreover, the military class is so large and so influential that the disaffection of the army means the downfall of the throne. Soldiers, like other men, want occupation; and to the soldier war represents not desolation and misery, but excitement, fame, rewards, and promotion. In India, where alone we have a military society such as exists in all the great garrison towns of France, people are always wanting to go to war—for no matter what pretext, or even without a pretext, and merely for the sake of fighting. But it is that sort of feeling, and that only, which now animates the French army. The French army does not want occupation merely. It wants to be employed in a particular manner against a particular army whose success and reputation have irritated it beyond bearing. The French army cannot rest contented while the Prussian army is looked upon as the first in Europe (our own little army is too small to be counted in the reckoning), capable of beating with ease those Austrian troops whom the French only beat with great difficulty.

Of course, the French army does not openly confess to this feeling. It wants to fight not for purely military reasons, but on high political and patriotic grounds. A French officer will never admit that the Prussian army is considered by anyone out of Prussia to be superior to the army of France; or he would, at most, admit such a thing to a brother officer. But one can see from the newspapers what the general feeling on the subject is in civil society; and if French civilians are hurt by the military greatness of Prussia, how deeply wounded French soldiers must be! This jealousy is, we are convinced, at the bottom of all the attacks made upon Prussia from a political point of view. The French declare themselves alarmed at the prospect of all Germany being united under Prussian leadership; but what really vexes them is the notion that the Prussian army is deemed invincible. France in general is annoyed by the thought, but the French army is more than annoyed. It is enraged, and burns with a fierce desire to prove to the world that French soldiers can beat Prussian soldiers now as they beat them, under the First Napoleon, at Jena and at Friedland. French journals say that Prussia is a dangerous neighbour; that it was one thing to have a number of petty German princes on the Rhine frontier, and that it is quite another thing to have Prussia there. But what these journals really mean is, that the Prussian army

occupies the place which was formerly held by the French army; and that it behoves the French army to reinstate itself as soon as possible in its ancient position. The French army gained its greatest reputation under the first Napoleon, and it will not be well for the Empire if it loses it under Napoleon III.

There, indeed, lies the real danger of the situation. The French army cannot, naturally, exercise any direct influence on the French Government. Neither the Chamber nor the Cabinet will think of going to war merely that the army may have an opportunity of showing how well it can fight. But the Emperor must listen to the army, and he cannot allow it to feel that it is losing, under his command, that immense prestige which it acquired under the command of his uncle. We fully believe that the Emperor, as a private individual, desires peace; but what, as an Emperor, he must desire much more than peace is, the good-will of the French army; and that, it is to be feared, can only be retained by giving it the chance of asserting once more its supremacy among the armies of Continental Europe. The French army, in its present attitude, is a constant source of danger; and until the Emperor effects a considerable reduction in its numbers nobody will believe his policy to be one of peace.

## CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

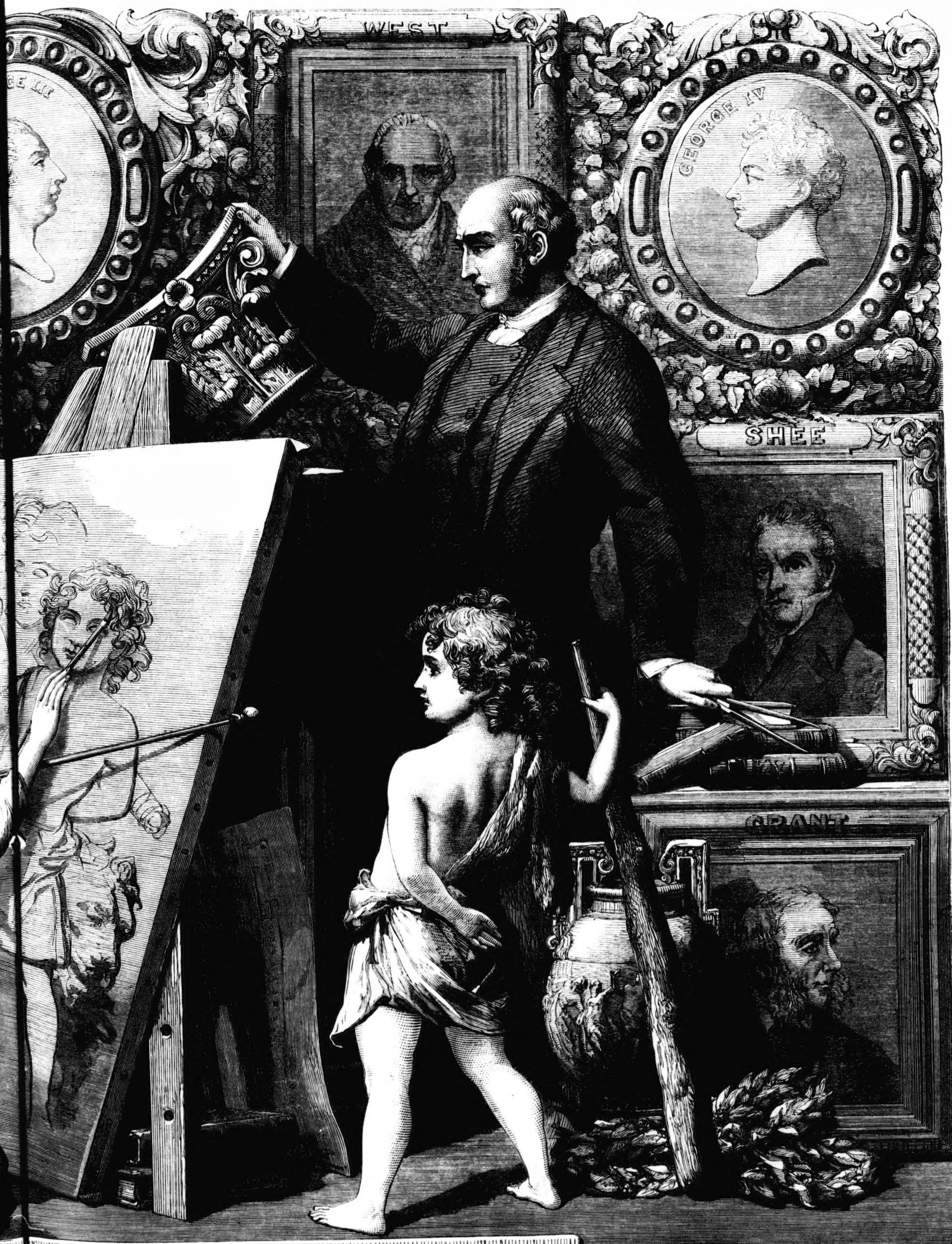
THE centenary of the Royal Academy is calculated to excite many reflections in the mind of a visitor to the exhibition. Naturally, one is led to make a comparison between British art in 1768 and in 1868; and, though we cannot pursue the subject at present, one point strikes us, when we bring the dates together, which we may insist upon, because it has a bearing on a characteristic of English art at present which materially impairs the interest of our exhibitions, and this is the remarkable fact that in 1768 English art had hardly any recognised status, except as portraiture, while in 1868 portrait-painting is the branch in which English art is weakest. Hogarth is the great and almost the only exception to the supremacy of portraiture at the earlier epoch. His claim to any but a very humble place in art was denied by the most authoritative criticism of his time. His popular reputation and such profit as he earned were won by his engravings. He could hardly sell his pictures except by raffle, and even then realised very small prices for them. Reynolds and Gainsborough were then in their full play of power, and from their time portrait-painting has been on the decline, till that which was the staple and pride of an exhibition in 1768 has in 1868 become its stone of offence. Looking round the East Room at the full-length portraits which at regular intervals occupy so large a space upon the walls, one is chilled and saddened by the depressing quality of work which it is within the power of good art to invest with perhaps a higher interest than any other class of subject. And the same thing may be said of this description of work, with very few exceptions, through the whole exhibition. We suppose it is in accordance with the tradition that makes it necessary that the president of the Academy should be a portrait-painter, which has induced the hanging committee to accord the most prominent places to portraits. Whether, in the changed conditions of art, it is wise to adhere to either of these traditional rules, we will not now inquire; but, in connection with our Engraving, simply say that Sir Joshua Reynolds, the first president, was appointed on the formation of the Academy, in 1768, and continued to hold the office till 1791, when he resigned. Sir Benjamin West, a native of America, was the next president, and he held the chair till his death, in 1820. He was succeeded by Sir Thomas Lawrence, at whose death, in 1830, Sir Martin Archer Shee succeeded to the chair. The next president was the late Sir Charles Eastlake, who died in 1866, and was succeeded by the present head of the Academy, Sir Francis Grant, a native of Perthshire, where he was born in 1803. Of the Royal personages who figure in our Engraving, it is unnecessary to say more here, than that they were Sovereigns of England and patrons of the Royal Academy. The allegorical figures in the centre of the picture need no description—they explain themselves.

THE ANNUAL DINNER OF THE COBDEN CLUB is fixed for Wednesday June 24, at the Ship Hotel, Greenwich, the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., in the chair.

BABY LANGUAGE AND REAL WORDS.—This marvellous instinctive study goes on in secret in the children's minds. After their first few attempts at talking they seem to mistrust their own efforts. They find out that their pretty prattle is no good; they listen, they turn over words in their minds, and whisper them to themselves as they are lying in their little cribs, and then one day the crisis comes, and a miracle is worked, and the child can speak. When children feel that their first attempts are understood they suddenly regain their good temper and wait for a further inspiration. They have generally mastered the great necessities of life in this very beginning of their efforts—"pooty," "toos," "bon butta," "papa," "mama," "nana" (for nurse), and "dolly"—and they are content. Often a long time passes without any further apparent advance, and then comes, perhaps, a second attack of indignation. I know of one little babe who had hardly spoken before, and who had been very cross and angry for some days past, who horrified its relations by suddenly standing up in its crib one day, rosy and round-eyed, and saying, "Bess my soul!" exactly like an old charwoman who had come into the nursery.—"Cornhill Magazine" for May.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held, on Thursday, at its house, John-street, Adelphi—the Duke of Northumberland, president, in the chair. Richard Lewis, Esq., the secretary, having read the minutes of the previous meeting, the sum of £7 10s. was voted to pay the expenses of the life-boat of the institution at Withernsea, in going off and bringing ashore, through a very heavy sea, the crew of nine men of two Withernsea fishing-boats; £10 7s. 6d. to the crew of the institution's life-boat at Cromer, in putting off, on the 9th ult., during a heavy north-east gale, and rescuing the crew of five men of the brigantine Aenorica, of Lowestoft, which was wrecked opposite Cromer gangway; £8 10s. to the crew of the life-boat at Blakeney, for going off, during a strong north-east gale, and saving the crew of three men of the sloop Richard, of Goole, which had stranded on the west sand; £8 8s. to the crew of five men of the schooner John C. Wade, of Newry, which during a heavy north-west gale had stranded off Troon Harbour; and £4 10s. to the crew of the institution's life-boat at Moelfre, for going off during a strong easterly wind and rescuing two men from the smack Cymro, of Amlwch, which was wrecked in Moelfre Bay, on the 8th ult. The life-boats of the institution stationed at Barnehead, Pakefield, and Howth had assisted to bring the following vessels and their crews safely into harbour: Schooner Dasher, of Amlwch, 4; brigantine Douglas, of Guernsey, 7; and the brig Arran, of Irvine, 8. Altogether, the institution this year has contributed to the rescue of 361 lives from different shipwrecks on our coasts, in addition to having saved eight vessels from destruction. Rewards were also granted to the crews of the life-boats of the institution at Hunstanton, Wexford, Worthing, Aberystwith, Campbeltown, and Millom, for various services to distressed vessels during the recent gales. Various other rewards were also granted to the crews of different shore-boats, for saving life from shipwrecks on our coast. Payments amounting to nearly £1500 were likewise ordered to be made on various life-boat establishments. The committee expressed their deep abhorrence and indignation at the attempt recently made in a distant colony on the life of H.R.H. Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, and an earnest hope that his Royal Highness would soon be restored to perfect health. A benevolent lady has given the institution the cost of the Lowestoft life-boat through Miss Prince and Miss Pilgrim, of Brixton. It was also reported that legacies had recently been bequeathed to the institution by the late Felix Slade, Esq., of Lambeth, £300; the late Mr. R. S. Fyell, of Rutland, £100; the late Mr. George Berger, of Newcastle-street, Strand, £10 10s.; and £20 by the late Mr. Edward Davies, of the same street. It was reported that the institution had sent new life-boats during the past month to Broadstairs, Kent; and Penmon, Anglesea. The last-named boat was exhibited at Settle, on route to its station. Reports were read from Captain Ward, R.N., the Inspector, and Captain D. Robertson, R.N., the assistant Inspector of life-boats to the institution, on their recent visits to the coast. The committee expressed their deep regret at the death of Mr. Thomas Forrest, who had been the able life-boat builder of the institution during the past sixteen years. The Duke of Northumberland presented a donation of £100 to the institution.





ARTS FOUNDED 1768

## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VISIT TO LEEDS to open the National Fine-Art Exhibition is fixed for the 19th inst. The Prince has accepted an invitation to a ball to be given, on the same day, by the Mayor.

PRINCESS LOUISA OF ENGLAND is, it is said, shortly to be married to the Crown Prince of Denmark. Her Royal Highness completed her twentieth year on March 18.

LORD AND LADY CASTLEROSE will invite the Prince and Princess of Wales to a few days at Killarney, in the month of September, and probably their Royal Highnesses will accept this invitation.

THE MARQUIS OF WESTMINSTER, K.G., one of the vice-presidents of the Great Northern Hospital, has just presented the handsome donation of £200 to that useful charity.

MR. DISRAELI will open an industrial exhibition at Halton, near Tring, on Whit Monday. It has been much patronised by the Rothschild family, who are large owners of property in the district.

MR. ODO W. L. RUSSELL, youngest son of the late Major-General Lord George W. Russell, and British diplomatic agent at Rome, was, on Tuesday, married to Lady Emily Villiers, youngest daughter of the Earl and Countess of Clarendon, at St. Andrew's Church, W.ford.

THE REV. ARCHIBALD WATSON, D.D., has been appointed one of her Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary in Scotland, in the room of the late Dr. Robert Lee.

THE HON. W. LYTTELTON, nephew of Mr. Gladstone, is spoken of as a candidate for the representation of East Worcestershire, rendered vacant by the elevation of the Hon. F. Calthorpe to the Peerage.

THE TRANSFER OF THE TERRITORIES of the Hudson Bay Company to the Government has been agreed to by the chairman, Lord Kimberley. A measure to effect this will be introduced into Parliament in the course of a few days.

MR. DISRAELI presided at the annual Royal Literary Fund dinner on Wednesday evening, and Mr. Gladstone at that of the London Hospital. Both gentlemen delivered eloquent addresses.

PETER MORGAN, alias Mohan, was, on Tuesday, convicted at the Central Criminal Court of inducing soldiers to desert from her Majesty's service to swell the Fenian ranks and sentenced to penal servitude for ten years. He tried to make a speech when he was called up for judgment, but Mr. Justice Wiles prevented him.

A PLASTER CAST of the statue designed by Baron Marochetti for the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park was lately put into its position in order to judge of the effect it would produce. The result was so unsatisfactory that the statue has been condemned as being unworthy of the shrine prepared to receive it.

THE REV. DR. MCOSH, one of the Irish Queen's College professors, has, without any application on his part, been unanimously elected President of Princeton University, United States.

CAPTAIN HORATIO ROSS has addressed a letter to the riflemen of Scotland, intimating that he purposes having a competition for admission into the Scottish Eight, at Irvine, on June 2.

HARVEST PROSPECTS in France are reported to be, on the whole, of a favourable character.

MR. JOHN MELLOR, an antiquary of Derby, states that he has discovered the remains of King Alfred at Hyde Abbey, Winchester.

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS is engaged, in collaboration with an English author, on a new and important drama, in which Mr. J. L. Toole is to sustain a principal part.

AN OFFER of £3000 has been made as an endowment for a chair of Applied Mental Science in the University of Edinburgh, on condition that £1500 or £2000 more be obtained from other sources.

THE SEAL FISHERIES during the past season are said to have been a great failure. The entire catch does not exceed 60,000 seals, against a previous average of from 200,000 to 300,000.

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY has occurred near Durham. A police officer, having been discharged for misconduct, shot his accuser dead, and then sent a bullet through his own brain. Both the deceased were Scotchmen.

ASTLEY'S THEATRE, which has in its time been devoted to many classes of public amusement, is to fall under the auctioneer's hammer on Tuesday, the 19th inst. It was entirely rebuilt by Mr. Batty in 1843, and is represented to be capable of seating 3500 people.

THE MARQUIS PEPOLI is shortly about to give in marriage his daughter Letitia to Count Galli de Forli, nephew of Pope Pius IX., and brought up by his Holiness. It seems that the future husband will do little honour to his venerable preceptor, for he is said to be favourable to the unity of Italy, and devoted to the constitutional throne of Victor Emmanuel.

AN ARAH CHIEF has been arrested at Teniz, Algeria, for cannibalism. He is charged with having eaten successively six persons to whom he had given hospitality and then murdered. A young woman, a relative of his, aged eighteen, narrowly escaped the same fate.

THE QUANTITY OF PROOF SPIRITS distilled in the United Kingdom and Ireland during the year ending Dec. 31 last was 23,323,613 gallons. The duty paid amounted to £11,382,994 5s. 7d.

MR. WALSH, station-master at the Priory station of the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway, at Dover, has been shot dead by a lad named Wells, a servant of the company, whom he had had occasion to reprove for misconduct.

THE BOURBON EMIGRANTS IN MALTA have spread a report that Garibaldi contemplates an invasion of Sicily, and their committee urge the partisans of the deposed King to second the movement, of which the war-cry should be "Down with the taxes!" In Florence no credit is given to the intention attributed to Garibaldi, who, up to the latest accounts, was quiet in Capri.

GREYSTOKE CASTLE, near Ullswater, the seat of Mr. Henry Howard, was destroyed by fire on Monday morning. The main building was gutted, and many portraits of the Howard family were also destroyed. Some valuable art-treasures were saved.

THE COLLIER'S STRIKE in the Wigan district is, it may be hoped, at an end. At a meeting of delegates, held on Monday, it was resolved to submit to the reduction of wages, and the coowners were requested to consider the desirability of establishing courts of conciliation for the settlement of any future dispute which may arise.

BURKE AND SHAW (or Mullady) were last week convicted of treason-felony and sentenced—Burke to fifteen years' and Shaw to seven years' penal servitude. Casey was acquitted.

THE DEATH OF AN OLD FEMALE MISER OF PARIS is recorded. She lived in the Rue de la Ferrière, and was well known in the quarter, as she went out every morning and evening to the market, where she dispensed 20 centimes for a pitance of broken victuals. After her decease a sum of 37,810 francs in bank notes and gold was found concealed in the bed on which she slept.

THE COLLIER'S STRIKE AT ST. HELEN'S has terminated. The men, who appear to have been reduced to great straits by the contest, have agreed to work at 15 per cent reduction, provided that in cases where coal-getting is attended with special difficulties consideration shall be given to the colliers.

MR. LYTTON'S ARTICLE ON PITT AND FOX contains the following:—A party cannot fail to decrease rapidly in power and importance that appears to the community to renounce all the recognised principles of political action in order to subserve the ambition of a chief whose very genius only renders more alarming to the safety of the commonwealth the unscrupulous appliance of his means to the naked audacity of his ends."

A FACTION FIGHT, of an even more deliberate character than those common in former times, has taken place at Garrycastle races, near Athlone. The Gaffey and the Hunts quarrelled six months ago over a "match-making," and the combat has only now come off. In the evening, after the races, the two parties retired to a lonely part of the course, where, the ringleader of each having called over the names of his men, a fierce fight with sticks began. In a quarter of an hour the number of the "wounded" was considerable. Ultimately the constabulary appeared upon the scene, and charged the struggling bodies, and dispersed them, making some arrests.

A LOCK-OUT IN THE IRON TRADE is reported. The extensive iron-works at Dowlais, in South Wales, at which about 10,000 hands are employed, were closed on Monday. A reduction of 20 per cent in the wages had been made, and Saturday was the first pay-day since this was enforced. The furnaces were directed to be got ready as usual on Monday; but, instead of starting, some of the men intimated that they would not commence work unless they received an advance equal to the recent reduction. Immediately upon this intimation being communicated to the manager, he ordered the gates to be locked, forbade the men to go to work, and, as the consequence, the population of a good-sized town are reduced to a state of idleness.

PERSONATING VOTERS AT THE LATE BRISTOL ELECTION.—Amongst the arts to which the Tories resorted in order to carry the late Bristol election for their candidate, Mr. John William Miles, was that of personating dead or absent voters. Two men were arrested in the act; some others are known, but are *non est*, and in other cases in which the cheat has become known the perpetrators are as yet unknown, but are being sought for. At the Bristol Police Court on Saturday, a man named William Cogan, was charged with having fraudulently personated at booth No. 44, for the parish of St. Philip and Jacob (out), one John North, a duly qualified elector, whose name was inserted on the register of voters for the city and county of Bristol. The accused was committed for trial, but the magistrate agreed to accept bail for his appearance, himself in £100 and two approved sureties in £50 each. There was a similar charge against a man named Peter Morris, but, his legal advocate being in Bath, it was after some discussion adjourned till Monday.

## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MATTERS cannot stand as they are whilst I am writing; perhaps, before you go to press the Government will have resigned, or have announced that it is their intention to dissolve Parliament as soon as the supplies can be got, and the Appropriation Bill passed. The Conservatives assert that the Premier will certainly dissolve if pressed to extremity. I do not believe he will, simply because such a course would be monstrous. What would happen if he were to dissolve now? The new House could not possibly assemble before the middle of June. It would be too late then to meddle with the Irish Church question. All that could be done, were the House to sit till the middle of August, would be to pass the Irish and Scotch bills. This would happen, then: The reason for dissolving would be that the new Parliament should consider the Irish Church question. But the new Parliament could not consider the Irish Church question. It would have to be referred to another—the reformed Parliament. Is not this a *reductio ad absurdum*? Disraeli is a daring, unscrupulous leader. But I cannot believe that he will do anything so daring and foolish as this; nevertheless, no one can say what he will do. If an English gentleman were Premier, we could calculate more or less accurately what he, in given circumstances, would do. But Cossackian gentlemen are unlike English gentlemen, and in endeavouring to calculate their orbits our logic entirely fails. Nevertheless, he alone is not the Government, you will say. He is merely the leader of the Government, and if his colleagues will not follow he cannot lead; and they are English gentlemen; will not they, then, prevent such a foolish step? One would think so; but really they seem to be spellbound—fascinated, still, on the whole, I do not—cannot—think that he will dissolve.

Disraeli's interview with the Queen, notwithstanding all that has been said, is still a mystery. What did the Premier ask, and what did her Majesty grant? Did he ask that he may dissolve as soon as the new constitutions shall be completed? Why should he do this? As soon as everything is prepared for electing a reformed Parliament, this Parliament must be dissolved. Why should Disraeli now ask her Majesty's permission to dissolve? Disraeli informed the House that her Majesty graciously gave him a promise to dissolve Parliament if he should wish her to do so—as soon as the necessary business of the Session could be got through.

What was her Majesty's idea of the necessary business? Usually this phrase means the getting supplies and passing the Appropriation Bill. Was this her Majesty's notion? The Premier gave the House to understand that he meant by "necessary business" not only this but the passing of the Irish and Scotch Reform and the Boundary Bills. What did her Majesty mean? As I have shown, it would be madness. Derby called it all but an impossibility to dissolve before these bills are passed. But then, as I have said, there was no occasion to ask her Majesty to dissolve after these bills shall have been passed, as dissolution will then follow as a matter of course.

Rumour whispers that this magician has thrown his spell over Majesty herself. The Queen, it is said, dislikes this move against the Irish Church, and, further, that Disraeli has artfully fostered this dislike, and, by insidious rhetoric and glozing courtesies, has made her Majesty believe that an appeal to the people will keep him in office and save the Irish Church, which, it is said, she is so anxious to preserve from destruction. Now, not a word of all this do I believe. But I do believe that Disraeli is quite capable of giving the cue to his followers to hint everywhere that this is so. Her Majesty is, I am persuaded, far too wise a woman, fascinating as our magician is, to be wiled by him into any unconstitutional, or even imprudent, course. What a strange destiny this man has! From an adventurer he has risen to be Premier—he has ruined the character of his party—he has, I fear, damaged our constituencies—he has stained the character of constitutional Government—he seems bent on dragging her Majesty into the political arena, and on placing the Crown and the House of Commons in collision—he has aimed a blow at the independence of the Commons' House, and destroyed, as far as in him lay, freedom of debate therein by his continual threats of dissolution—he has brought about a deadlock in legislation—and his policy, if persevered in, must result in a contest between the several branches of the Legislature. When will his destiny be fulfilled?

The cartoon in *Fun* is this week at once pleasing, effective, and appropriate. It is entitled "Satisfied," and represents Britannia leaning one hand on a sheathed sword, while from the other drop the broken fetters of the Abyssinian captives. In the background towers Magdala, and in the middle distance the British forces are seen in full march homewards. This cartoon is, in every respect, one of the best of the many good things the conductor of *Fun* is in the habit of laying before his readers.

The Religious Tract Society has just issued a series of excellent coloured engravings, printed by Kronheim and Co., illustrative of passages of Holy Writ. The closeness of the connection between the passage and the picture may not always be quite obvious, but there can be no two opinions as to the taste of the design of these engravings or of the skill with which they have been printed. Among the pictures are the following:—In the "Hayfield with Father" illustrates Psalm ciii. 13-17; "The Gleaner," Gen. viii. 22, and Joel ii. 23, 26; "The Flower Girl," Matthew vi. 28-30; "The Queen giving a Testament to a Highland Cottager," Deut. xvii. 18, 19; John v. 39; "Don't cry, Dear! 'Twill soon be over," Ephes. iv. 32; v. 1, 2; and "Welcome Home again," Prov. xvii. 6; Ephes. vi. 1, 2.

## THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

## THE MAGAZINES.

If there is any poem that you might expect to find quoted correctly it is, perhaps, Wordsworth's well-known Westminster Bridge Sonnet. And the sonnet, of all poems, is most easy to remember, because of its recurring rhymes. Yet, in one of the good magazines this month, I find the following:—

Earth has not anything more fair to show.—WORDSWORTH.

As there are four distinct cadences, all alike, which might have helped the memory here, how are we to account for the transposition which is made in this single line? Many of our readers will see at a glance where the error is.

You have handed me a note from a correspondent who, having noticed something said in this column about a paper on "Occult Personal Influence," in the *Victoria*, wants to know where it is published. This correspondent assures me that his bookseller can't find the magazine. Book and periodical sellers in general are a peculiarly stupid race; but that there should be a bookseller in London ignorant of Miss Emily Faithfull's magazine and office (the latter in Princes-street, Hanover-square) is what nobody would have expected.

The new comer this month is the *Oak*, a sixpenny miscellany, in which I can discern nothing very individual. It has rather a provincial look, but perhaps a future number may be better.

The little school magazine published at Ipswich, called the *Elizabethan*, is really a nice periodical. It has a good deal of individuality, even as it is; but some of us would like to see it take up a little more. Why should not these young gentlemen give us a magazine in which educational questions should be discussed from the young scholars' point of view? The curiosities of school literature are not yet exhausted (though we have had some capital books of history and anecdote); and even if they were, there would remain a wide field of school topics in which young gentlemen might kick up their intellectual heels in such a way that we should all be gainers by their friskiness. Why not throw away all thought of imitation, of writing the same sort of thing as other magazines give us, and let us have an out-and-out periodical which shall have the schoolboy accent in every page? What do the "committee" of the *Elizabethan* say to a Lion's Mouth, or correspondence-box? Only it will be of no use if it is a sham! Print boldly whatever matter (not indecent) is sent to you; and, though we may perhaps laugh, we shall be edified. Meanwhile, I hope the Ipswichers (isn't that a beauty of a word?) cordially support this little venture.

Of *Macmillan* I can only say, now, that it contains a poem by Mr. Tennyson ("Lacretius"), which is not only eight pages long,

but is as good as "Tithonus." To certain points in it I hope, with your permission, to give a few words of special notice next week. In the mean while, *Macmillan* is a magazine to be bought at once, if for this poem alone. But there is besides, among other good matter, a deeply-interesting paper entitled "Workmen on the Thames and Elsewhere."

The *Student and Intellectual Observer* maintains its character in respect of its illustrations and its literature. By-the-by, apropos of Professor Nilsson's reference to "Corn. Nep. Hannib.", edit. Kuchen" (p. 258), is it not possible that there may be a footnote by the editor which Nilsson had in his mind?

Of the *London and County Review* the design is, as I have before said, admirable. The summaries are particularly good, and, in parts, written with an epigrammatic gaiety that is almost French. There is this month, too, a political paper, which is very acutely written. But what is it that these people who deprecate popular force and refer so much to "order" and "the Constitution" are driving at? No government can hold its own against the will of large majorities; and if the people cannot get what they want by "constitutional" means, they will always try to take it by other means. How can this be altered?

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

I have received a letter from a Mr. Prior, who brought over the troupe of Japanese jugglers who performed at St. Martin's Hall last year. Mr. Prior feels himself aggrieved at my having stigmatised the troupe in question as "clumsy impostors," and makes the following statement concerning them:—

I, accompanied by my partner, Mr. Grant, brought them from Yokohama; and I think I am correct in saying that the females composing our troupe were the first who ever quitted their native country. Mr. Risley did not leave until after us.

Let me assure Mr. Prior that nothing was farther from my intention than to reflect on the genuineness of his troupe as actual natives of Japan. I simply meant to imply that, representing themselves to be remarkably clever conjurers and acrobats, they were, in point of fact, conjurors and acrobats of insignificant talent.

The principal theatrical novelty during the past week has been the return of Mr. Alfred Wigan to the QUEEN'S THEATRE, after an absence of some four months. It is a pity that this admirable actor should have been unable, during this interval, to provide himself with a new part specially fitted to his peculiar powers. "The First Night," in which he re-appears, has, I suppose, been played many hundred times in London since its first production; and, wonderful as Mr. Wigan's impersonation of the scheming old French utility actor unquestionably is, the piece is now so well known that he is hardly justified in relying on it as the principal attraction in his programme. The theatre-going public look forward to his appearance in a new part with the interest that an opera-subscriber feels in the appearance of a new prima donna. The drama, "Doing for the Best," has been revived at this theatre for Mr. Toole; and "Oliver Twist" concludes the programme.

I had the pleasure of attending Miss Neilson's "reading," at St. George's Hall, last week. I am afraid that the interest that is taken in entertainments of this description is of a rather artificial character; the audience never seems to be enjoying itself; and, consequently, the "reader" has usually an up-hill task of it. As a rule, to which Mr. Dickens's readings are almost the only exception, people seem to go to this special form of amusement rather in discharge of a stern moral duty that they owe to society than from any expectation of being actually entertained by what they are to hear. Miss Neilson's delivery, however, has some special charms which give it a character of its own; her declamation is impassioned; and, at the same time, she never oversteps the boundary-line between the entertainment-room and the stage. She has a singularly clear enunciation, and evidently a keen appreciation of the beauties of the *metre* she selected for recitation. If her reading has a fault, it consists in a tendency to give undue prominence to unimportant words, an over-elaboration which may fairly be attributed to the nervousness of a "first night." Strange to say, the pieces in which she made the greatest effect were of a non-dramatic order, her "balcony scene" from "Romeo and Juliet" being, perhaps, the least satisfactory of her recitations. I believe that Miss Neilson's stage Juliet is an excellent performance. I have never seen it; but in her "recitation" she appeared to be hampered by the rapid change of character incidental to the scene.

## FINE ARTS.

## EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

The quotation on the cover of the Academy Catalogue this year is an extract from the elder Disraeli, which affirms that "The poet and the painter are only truly great by the mutual influences of their studies." It is, perhaps, in despair of enforcing this assertion by the examples on the walls of their gallery that the council have given most of the best places to portraits, and have so contrived that about one third of the canvases supposed to illustrate poetry or literature are those which, failing utterly to convey any adequate impression of the scenes they are intended to represent, occupy the "line" to which the visitor who braves the struggles of the first days of exhibition must necessarily confine himself. It is not too much to say that the hanging committee has this year exceeded itself in the amazing want of judgment displayed; and that until the visitor is able to select for himself the real gems of the collection, some of which require a gymnastic operation for their discovery, he will be disposed to believe that the exhibition is a lamentable proof of our decadence in art. Beginning at the East Room, and consequently at

meuced our notice, and yet it is full of such wonderful colour and beauty that we sigh with regret as we turn away disappointed. The marvellous sense of light and jewellery, the exquisite distance of the clear transparent stream, seen through the saracenic arch over which Othello, Desdemona, and her father are listening to the stormy story of the Moor's life, all these are wonderful; but, then, the father is a portrait of a nonjuring clergyman of the time of Queen Anne; Desdemona is a young lady of quiet, domestic instincts, listening with an amused curiosity to what might be a description of the megarium; and Othello—well, he looks like a nobleman of serious views advocating the cause of a charity in the London Tavern. Mr. Millais is well represented this year, and his pictures afford a startling proof of what an intelligent adoption of the Pre-Raphaelite practice may effect in its influence upon the work of those who return from it to Nature, plus that part of Nature termed atmosphere, and with an eye that is not a microscope. His Rosalind and Celia, sitting at the foot of the tree, with Touchstone on the other side, is full not only of tender painting, but of true humour; while his "Pilgrims to Saint Paul's" (356) is, perhaps, the most attractive work in the exhibition. The attitude of the two old Greenwich pensioners, and the expression of their faces as they stand at Nelson's tomb in the yellow, sickly light of a lantern, are gloriously suggestive. Full of subtle distinction, too, is the paler, more fretful, and more sentimental face of the poor old fellow, who is being too mutilated to stand without crutches, cannot remove his hat; and the less stern, self-conscious, weather-beaten visage of his companion in the crypt where their hero is buried.

In Mr. Yeames's "Lady Jane Grey in the Tower" (363) there is an admirable painting, and especially in the face of Feckenham, which is that of the treacherous and persecuting churchman. This, Mr. Arndell's "Rescue from the Coming Storm" (376), a splendid bit of Highland cloud and snow, with a threatening of real Highland rain and wind, and a struggle between sheep and shepherd; and Mr. Poole's strange shadowy "Border Raid" (382), brings us to the West Room, where we stand before Mr. Calthrop's "Last Song of the Girondins, 1793." This is an able work, and full of a strange interest of its own, the figures that are going singing on the walk to death being historical; but it is not well placed. Mr. Burgess's "Stolen by Gipsies" (391) is more fortunate, and this picture is one of the most generally attractive, as it deserves to be, since the scene, the rendering, and the story are alike interesting, although the former is distinctly Spanish. The faces of the old men are full of cunning and bravado; the keen, half-disliking, half-pitying gaze of the woman who crouches on the floor, nursing her half-Gentile child, is very real; and the wistful, perhaps, look of the little lady, who cannot understand the sarcastic blandishments of the mountebank fellow bowing before her, is as good as anything in its way can be. It is a strange transition from this to "The Catapult" (402), by Mr. E. I. Poynter—a painting so full of muscular, varnished flesh that it is scarcely attractive, except by its bold drawing. Mr. Wynfield's "Oliver Cromwell's First Appearance in Parliament" (110) is another historical picture full of interest; but it is flat, and, if we may use the word, panelly in colour—an effect scarcely redeemed by its excellent finish. "The Sleep of Duncan" (439) is in Mr. Macleod's style, and is full of the vibration of colour, though few people will quite accept the Lady Macbeth as their ideal of Shakespeare's creation.

Mrs. E. M. Ward, so noticeable for the beauty of colour and picture in her pictures, has well sustained her reputation in "Sion House, 1553" (167). The scene represents the anguish of the unfortunate lady on being suddenly addressed as Queen. The painting in soft velvet, lace, and pearls in this picture is simply wonderful; but it has merits superior even to these in the artistic feeling and composition it displays. A sweet little picture by E. Frere (190), representing a school of little girls leaving their lessons for the day and coming down by a quaint old outer staircase, is one of the pleasantest works in the room. The anxious care of the good sister of charity who stoops to tie a wrapper round the neck of one little child by creature, and the sense of life and youth in the whole merry, bustling group, are too refreshing to be passed over lightly.

A strange picture is "Herod's Birthday Feast" (520), by Mr. Armitage—strange, perhaps, in its truth, and certainly noticeable for originality and power of treatment, but strange also for a sudden revelation that comes to us as we look at it, of the deep degradation that befel the Jews when they affected Roman fashions and adopted Roman habits. These heavy Jewish faces—seusnised and besotted, crowned with chaplets in the classic fashion—are awfully suggestive of what one can only vulgarly designate as "a bad lot;" reded, perhaps, by the grisly cruel and rather intellectual visage of Herod himself, who has the traditional "unscrupulous statesman" look of all periods of the world's history. With Mr. Hughes's "Sigh to more, Ladies" (510), represented by a damsel, in a deep damson dress, seated amidst elaborately rendered wall and tapestry ornamentation; and Mr. Calderon's "Oenone" (573) a lowly figure in a robe of pale green and distinguished by superb proportions, we must close our notice of the exhibition this week.

#### INSTITUTE OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

The season is advancing, and we are in the thick of our fine-art exhibitions. The two Water-Colour Societies, Old and New, are open with well-filled walls; and the patrons of both have ample opportunities for indulging their tastes in the various styles of modern drawing.

The gallery of the Institute, at 53, Pall-mall, is attractive this year by reason of a few very admirable works of artists already regarded as leading men in the profession; and by some promising examples by those who, though at present less known, are rapidly rising in public appreciation. On entering the room the visitor is at once attracted to "The End of the Journey," a representation by Mr. Gow of an inn-yard in the old coaching days, the days of cocked hats and scarlet coats, and long wintry journeys, when a successful voyage by the red jingling mail was a feat to be congratulated on. There is so much admirable grouping and lifelike interest in this picture, that it may be said to tell a story of those good old times which nobody now pretends to regret. Mr. Thomas's rendering of the old subject of Olivia and Sophia, with their father, the venerable Vicar, looking at them from the chimney-corner, would be more pleasing but for a certain defect in colour; the dull red of the drapery behind the rather too eruptive flesh tint of the girls, and the generally ruddy tendency of all the accessories of the picture, spoil the effect of what would otherwise be recognised as very meritorious work. A more unpleasing subject is Mr. Absolon's "Shortsighted"—a lady coming out of church, followed by her servant, and quite unable to see her poorer relatives and acquaintances, who linger to speak to her at the porch, and are driven away by her vulgar arrogance. There is something so raw and meagre in the colouring of this work, and the subject itself is made so repellent by its treatment, that, in spite of admirable drawing and real humour, it can scarcely be a favourite. "The First Bouquet," by Mr. Green, is a more attractive, and singularly enough, is almost identical in conception with a painting in the Academy, while it is fuller of incident and figures, and executed from more appreciative point of view. The little Danseuse whose first appearance has gained her a bouquet; the serious, wistful pleasure of the Clown; the experienced congratulations of the elder girl—herself no more than a child; the half-tolerant and yet humanly benevolent expression of Signor Harlequin; and the happy rendering of all the sordid accessories of the "wings," are admirable; while there is a fine sense of colour which never becomes extravagant. "A Silver Wedding," by Louis Haghe, is a striking picture; but there is a grumness in the faces of the people at table, which is a serious fault of colour, unless it be meant for realism. Mr. Corbould's "Salome Dancing before Herod" is a picture wherein all the other swarthy figures are sub-serve to the one fair woman whose large white limb seem to reflect light as they move, and have a foil even in the brilliant flowers that have fallen at Herod's feet. A very different picture is Mr. Beavis's "Scouts"—a wild hill road, full of the sudden hurry of men and horses. Mr. Guido Bach's picture of the Italian mother with the child upon her knee, and the husband

piping to the little fellow's ride, is magnificent in drawing; the same mother and child, larger and with the infant asleep on the maternal bosom, are repeated in "Ave Maria," a truly exquisite bit of composition, due as much to the wonderful handling of the artist as to models which must be very rarely found even about Rome. Of English child scenes one of the most attractive is Mr. Kilturane's "Seven a.m." Two little "toots" coming down stairs in the morning in the dishevelled blanket and nightgown, under the charge of a pretty long-armed nurserymaid. As a very French picture, we have M. E. Morin's "Afternoon in the Bois de Boulogne;" and as an example of that true talent which can paint what it sees and make other see it too, without glamour, is Mrs. Murray's "Gipsy Girl at Sville." We must not forget that admirable little scene-story "Fording the Text," referring to the child-pictures, nor the beautiful combination of life and landscape in Mr. Mole's "Basket of Blackberries." As regards scenery and seascapes, the gallery is peculiarly happy in Mr. Haye's "Wreck of the Homeward Bound," with its real sea; and Mr. Bennett's "Crossing the Channel," though it must have been painted from the point of view of a fish somewhere under the crest of one of those moving waves, is suggestive enough to passengers who hear of the water between Dover and Calais being as smooth as a millpond. Mr. Mitchell's "Rifted Bank of Lyd" is a sweet bit of misty Devon hill scenery; and Mr. Beavis's "Oxen Ploughing on the Downs of Sussex" is so fine as to be a special feature in the gallery.

Of the other special attractions we cannot omit allusion to Mr. Shalder's "South Downs near Midhurst;" Mr. Aaron Penley's "Loch Lomond;" and Mr. Goodall's wondrously shadowed figure of "Rachael," the gem of a collection where there are other pictures so well deserving notice that we can only regret our want of space to note our appreciation of their merits.

#### BANQUET AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

LAST Saturday the anniversary dinner of the Royal Academy was held at their rooms in Trafalgar-square, where a numerous and distinguished company assembled. The President of the Royal Academy (Sir Francis Grant) presided, supported by the following Royal and illustrious guests:—The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Christian, the Duke d'Anjou, Prince Teck, and Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar; the Lord Chancellor, the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary, the Colonial Secretary, the Secretary for War, the Secretary for India, the Commander of the Forces, the Lord Chamberlain, the Lord Steward, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the President of the Board of Trade, the First Commissioners of her Majesty's Works, the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench, the Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, the Lord Chief Baron, the Master of the Rolls, the Attorney-General, the Solicitor-General; the Archbishops of Canterbury, York, and Dublin; the Bishop of Oxford; Mr. T. Baring, M.P.; Mr. J. Bright, M.P.; the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Chelmsford, Earl De Grey and Ripon, Dean Stanley, &c. The president's chair was placed immediately in front of the picture painted by Sir Francis Grant of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, at the battle of the Alma, leading the Guards up the hill in support of the Light Division; his Serene Highness Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar being in command of a company of the Guards. The musical arrangement was under the direction of Mr. John Foster, assisted by Mr. Coward, Mr. Coates, Mr. Montem Smith, and Mr. Winn.

The President, having given "The Health of the Queen," next gave "Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who was received with much cheering, said:—

Mr. President, my Lords, and Gentlemen,—In the name of the Princess of Wales, myself, and other members of the Royal family, I beg to thank you for the kind way in which you have proposed our health, and for the very gratifying manner in which it has been received by this company. I can assure you that I always look forward to these annual dinners with the highest pleasure. And I feel it a great honour that I owe to you, Sir Francis Grant, and the other Royal Academicians, to be present on this occasion, when we have the opportunity of meeting so many gentlemen of different professions and of different denominations, and at the same time are surrounded with some of the best English and also foreign pictures of the present day. I think I may be allowed to congratulate you, Sir Francis, on the picture on which, unfortunately for me, I am now turning my back—a picture representing scenes now past, but not forgotten, in which two of my illustrious relatives on my right may claim a part. I see around me also in this room, and in the other rooms, pictures to which I need not allude, for all the visitors have seen them, and have made their own comments on them. You, Sir Francis, have alluded to the late visit of the Princess of Wales and myself to Ireland; and I beg to thank you for the very kind and flattering remarks you have made. I am sure I only speak the sentiments of the Princess, as well as my own, when I say that we were most deeply touched and gratified by the reception we met with in Ireland. I feel convinced that the people intended to be hearty and loyal; and it seemed, as our visit was lengthened, that they showed even more enthusiasm than they did at first. I will not trouble you by referring to, nor do I think it would be right that I should mention anything about our Irish policy; but I feel convinced that the Irish people are loyal to the core, whatever may be said either in this country or any other. You, Sir Francis, have also alluded to the terrible and dastardly attack on my brother. He was performing the duties intrusted to him by the Queen in representing her in her Australian colonies, being in command of one of the finest ships in her Majesty's Navy, when he was wounded by the bullet of an assassin. Luckily, from the last accounts we received, he is now recovering from the wound. It may, indeed, be said that he had a most miraculous escape; and I believe he is now on board his ship and on his way home. I wish, Sir Francis, to take this opportunity of thanking you for the kind interest you have taken in him; and not only for the interest taken in him here, but in all public places and in the different newspapers. I am sure I shall fulfil his desire, as his elder brother, in thanking you, and, indeed, everybody in this country, for the kind interest they have taken in him. Mr. President, I know there are so many others at this table whose healths will be proposed, and whose response will be so much more worth listening to than anything I can say, that I will not trouble you with any further remarks. I will only again thank you, which I do most heartily, for the Princess, myself, and the other members of the Royal family, for the kind manner in which you have proposed and received our healths.

The President then gave "The Health of their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian."

Prince Christian, in acknowledging the compliment, said:—

I beg to thank you for the kind manner in which you, Sir Francis, have proposed, and this distinguished company have received, the health of the Princess and myself. As a naturalised Englishman, and bound to this country by the dearest ties, I may humbly claim my share in all that goes to make up its greatness. It is therefore with sincere pleasure and pride that I find myself the guest of the Royal Academy, and in presence of so many illustrious men, whose names are household words in every civilised land. In thanking you, Sir Francis, for the honour you have done me, I may be permitted to take this opportunity of expressing my deep sense of obligation to that hearty kindness I have received from all classes in this country. It will be my earnest endeavour to prove myself not unworthy of this good will, and to draw still closer the bonds that unite me to the land of my adoption.

The next toast was "The Army, Navy, and Volunteers," which was responded to by the Duke of Cambridge, the Earl of Shrewsbury, and Viscount Bury.

"The Health of her Majesty's Ministers" was next given, and, in the absence of Mr. Disraeli, was responded to by the Lord Chancellor.

The other toasts comprised "The Health of the Lord Mayor," "The Royal Society" (responded to by Sir R. Murchison), "Prosperity to the Interests of Literature" (responded to by Mr. Froude), and "The Society of Antiquaries and Earl Stanhope," to which his Lordship responded.

The speech of the evening on these occasions is that which the president makes in the name of the Academy when his own health is drunk. On this occasion it was made unusually interesting by the announcement of a change which will probably have a deep influence on British art. Just one hundred years after its foundation the Academy is to take possession of its new and spacious galleries in Burlington House, where it will have room for the just and effective exhibition of all the works of merit which may be offered. For more than thirty years it has occupied the rooms in

Trafalgar-square, to which it removed from Somerset House. The accommodation in the latter building must have been very limited if the works were then exhibited under more unfavourable conditions than now. The present rooms, though perhaps sufficient in 1836, afford neither wall enough for the paintings nor floor enough for the spectators. The president told his guests that the works of art sent in for the present year amounted to 3011, the pictures alone being 2683. With the closest packing the number that the committee has been able to place on the walls was 896. The pictures accepted but not hung are 180. Now, though we do not desire that every dauber should force his distorted figures and his garish hues on the public, it must be admitted that this insufficiency of space is likely to injure rising talent. Other and minor exhibitions do not compensate for exclusion from that which everybody hears of and everybody visits. The Academy in its new home will be able to begin its second century with more justice to British art.

#### ROYAL COMMISSION ON RITUALISM.

THE Royal Commission on Ritualism has just presented its second report to the Queen. It is as follows:—

Since we made our first report to your Majesty in relation to the vestments worn by the ministers of the United Church of England and Ireland at the time of their ministration, we have proceeded to consider the other parts of the subject pointed out in your Majesty's commission as the most pressing.

The use of lighted candles in celebrating the holy communion, they are not needed for the purpose of giving light, and the use of incense in the public services of the Church, are the matters connected with this part of the subject to which our attention has been mainly directed.

We have taken evidence, and have availed ourselves of the information furnished by the arguments in the recent suits before the Court of Arches of "Martin v. Mackenzie" and "Flannan v. Simpson," both in respect of lights used at the celebration of the holy communion and also in respect of the use of incense as part of the public service of the Church.

The use of lighted candles at the celebration of the holy communion has been introduced into certain churches within the last twenty-five years. It is true that there have been candlesticks, with candles, on the Lord's table during a long period in many cathedrals and collegiate churches and chapels, and also in the chapels of some colleges and of some Royal and episcopal residences; but the instances that have been adduced to prove that candles have been lighted as accessories to the holy communion are few and much contested.

With regard to parish churches, whatever evidence there may be as to candlesticks with candles being on the Lord's table, no sufficient evidence has been adduced before us to prove that at any time during the last three centuries lighted candles have been used in any of these churches as accessories to the celebration of the holy communion until within about the last twenty-five years.

The use of incense in the public services of the Church during the present century is very recent, and the instances of its introduction very rare; and, so far as we have any evidence before us, it is at variance with the Church's usage for 300 years.

Under these circumstances, and in conformity with the principles which guided us in our first report, we are of opinion that it is expedient to restrain in the public services of the Church all variations from established usage in respect of lighted candles and of incense.

With respect, then, to the lights and incense, as well as vestments, we think that a speedy and inexpensive remedy should be provided for parishioners aggrieved by their introduction; and the remedy which we recommend is the following: First, that whenever it shall be found necessary that order be taken concerning the same, the usage of the Church of England and Ireland as above stated to have prevailed for the last 300 years shall be deemed to be the rule of the Church in respect of vestments, lights, and incense; and secondly, that parishioners may make formal application to the Bishop in *camera*, and the Bishop on such application shall be bound to inquire into the matter of the complaint, and if it shall thereby appear that there has been a variation from established usage by the introduction of vestments, lights, or incense in the public services of the Church, he shall take order forthwith for the discontinuance of such variation, and be enabled to enforce the same summarily. We also think that the determination of the Bishop on such application should be subject to appeal to the Archbishop of the province in *camera*, whose decision thereon shall be final—provided always that if it should appear to either party that the decision of the Bishop or Archbishop is open to question on any legal ground, a case may be stated by the party dissatisfied, to be certified by the Bishop or Archbishop as correct, and then submitted by the said party for the decision of the Court of the Archbishop without pleading or evidence, with a right of appeal to the Privy Council, and with power for the Court, if the statement of the case should appear to be in any way defective, to refer back such case to the Bishop or Archbishop for amendment.

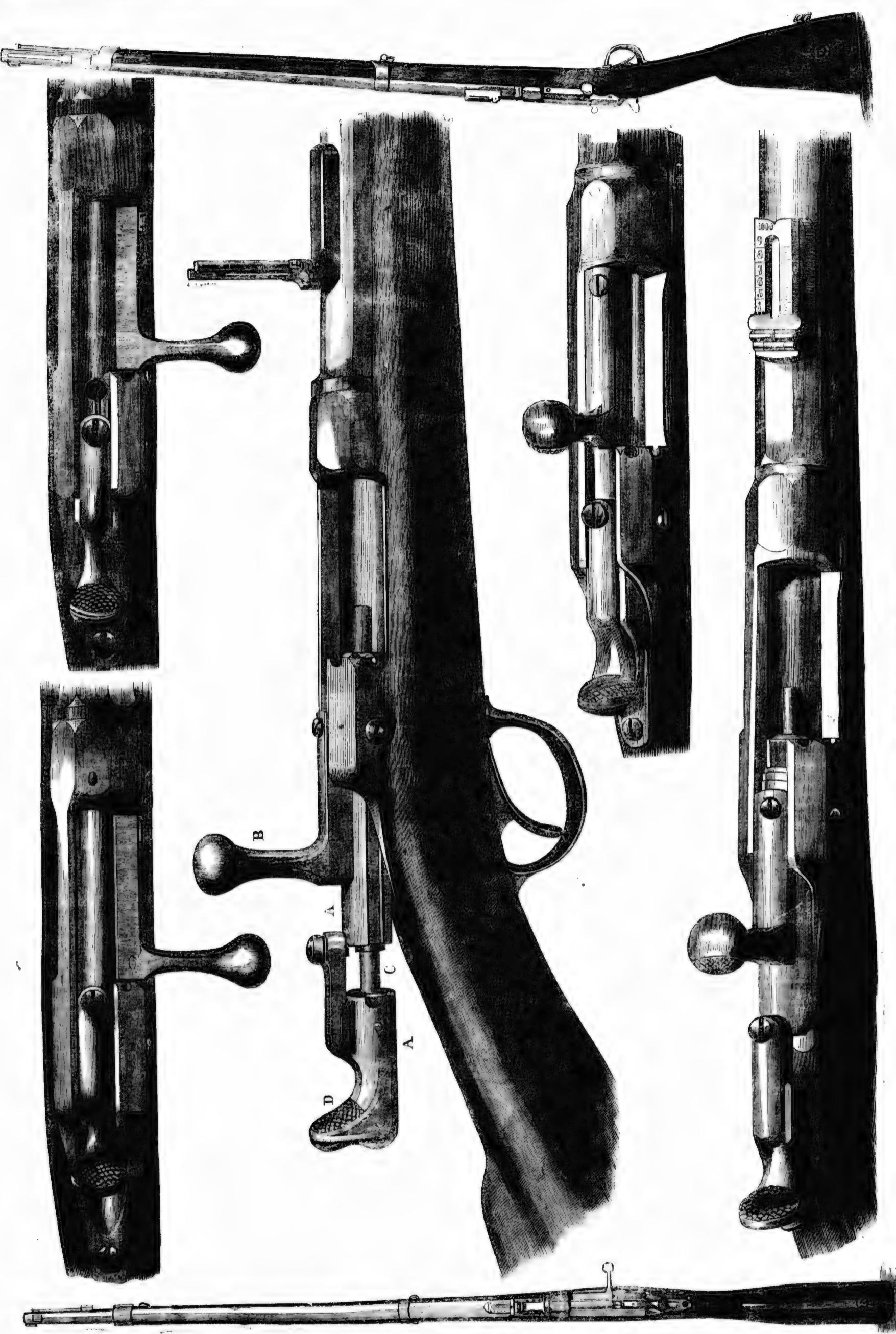
Precautions should be taken against frivolous applications being brought before the Bishop; and, with this view, we further recommend that the application should be made either by one or more of the church or chapel wardens, or by at least five resident parishioners, who shall be householders and declare themselves to be members of the Church of England in places where the population exceeds 1000, and by at least three such persons where the population is less than that number.

In making this recommendation our intention is simply to provide for parishioners aggrieved by the introduction of variations from established usage in respect of vestments, lights, and incense, a special facility for restraining such variations without interfering in other respects with the general law of the Church as to ornaments or the ordinary remedies now in force.

In submitting these recommendations to your Majesty, we desire to state that we are anxious in no degree to abridge or curtail any of the rightful liberties heretofore enjoyed by the clergy and laity of the Church of England. The National Church may well include men of varying shades of opinion so long as they can combine in a conscientious acceptance of her recognised formularies and appointed rites. But this large comprehension seems to us to render it most desirable that in the celebration of the Church's rites there shall be introduced no novel feature which are welcome only to some but are offensive to others. All members of the Church, being expected to join devoutly in one common form and order of service, are, as we conceive, entitled to expect that no unaccustomed form be used, giving to the service a new tendency and significance, by which the devotion of many is impeded.

We have made some progress in the revision of the rubrics, orders, and directions contained in the Book of Common Prayer, and our recommendations on this subject will be presented to your Majesty in our next report. A committee of the commission has been for some time engaged in preparing materials for the revision of the Litany.

From this report six of the Commissioners withhold their signatures. Moreover, the Bishop of Oxford and the Dean of Ely dissent altogether from the method proposed for enforcing the judgment of the Commission; while Mr. Coleridge and the Dean of Westminster desire that its application should be greatly limited. It remains, however, that twenty-three out of the twenty-nine Commissioners have signed the report as a whole; and nineteen, including the two Archbishops and three out of the four Bishops, have signed it without qualification. The pleas of the dissentients will hardly avail to diminish the weight of this general concurrence. Lord Beauchamp, we fear, appeals to considerations too recalcitrant to affect the public in general. He seems somewhat embarrassed by the fact that the Court of Arches has recently ventured to declare a practice unlawful "which was largely enjoined under the dispensation of the Old Testament, and forms no insignificant feature in the worship of Heaven, as set forth by St. John the Divine." We are afraid that the Court of Arches will be obliged, under all circumstances, to treat as unlawful some of the practices described by St. John the Divine. Mr. Perry, not content with signifying his dissent, or making a proposal of his own, has thought fit to enter on a detailed criticism of his colleagues' report. So far as he adds anything to the objections raised by the dissentients, he does but put forward those special pleas of his party which have been so decidedly rejected by the rest of the Commission. The qualification appended by Dr. Stanley and Mr. Coleridge we find it hard to understand. They cannot join in recommending a rigid uniformity in matters not essential, and they think these innovations should only be restrained "when they give offence to the parishioners, and so far as the recommendation proposed is intended to secure this object, they concur in it." But this is the very object it is intended to secure, and it is only upon the application of the parishioners that the Bishop's authority would be put in force. The most important dissent is that of the Bishop of Oxford and Dean Goodwin. These Commissioners object to the proposal to "stereotype" the practice of the last 300 years as the rule of the Church. They disapprove the introduction of "a new rule of ornaments," and urge that "offence may be removed by strengthening the hands of the Bishop with appeal to the Archbishop;" in other words, by leaving the law as it stands, but giving the Bishops more power of interference.



THE NEW FRENCH RIFLE, THE CHASSEPOT.

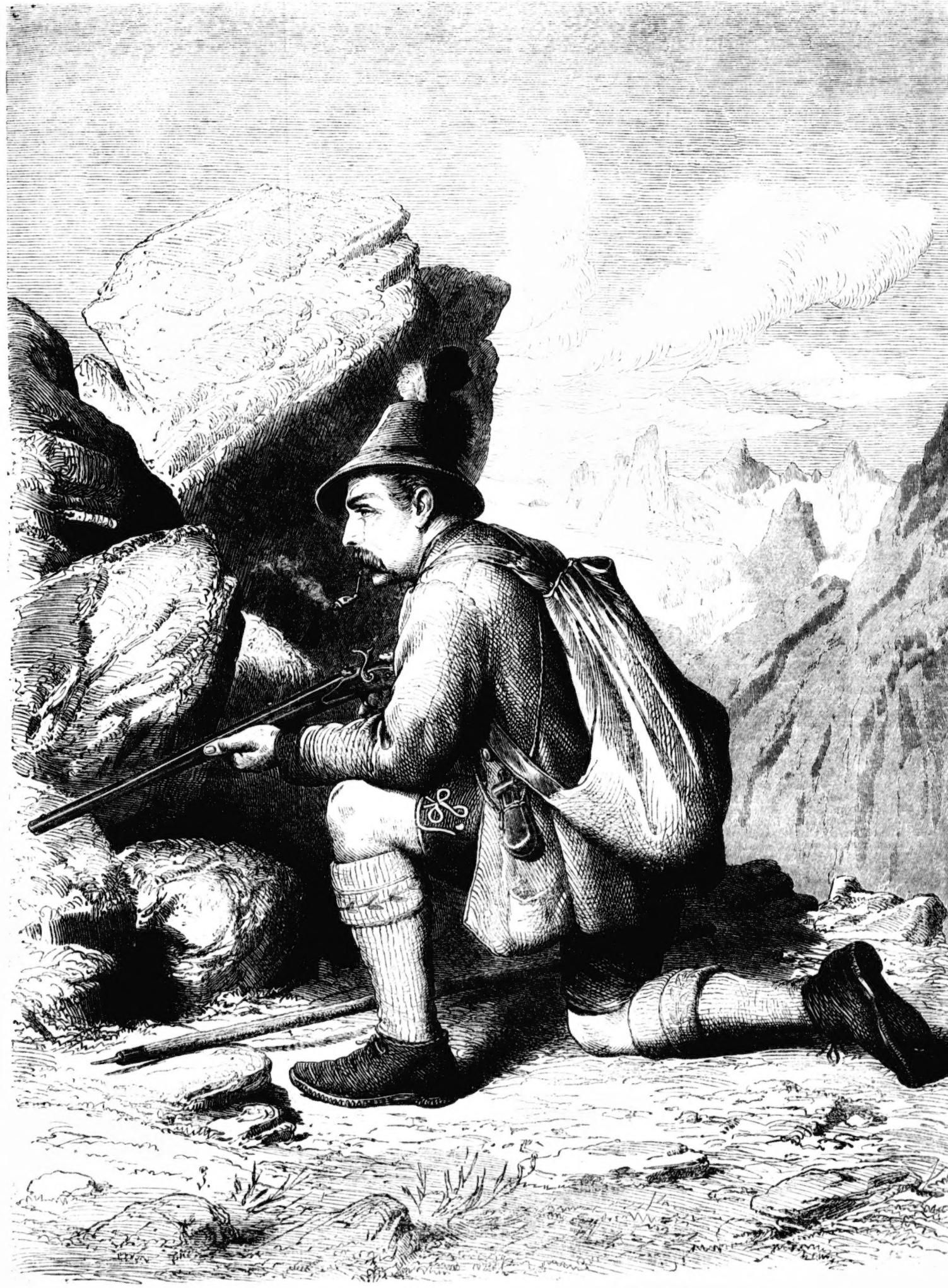
## THE CHASSEPOT RIFLE.

"OUR Chassepots did wonders" was the report of a commander in the French service the first time the new weapon was positively tried upon human flesh; and there can be no doubt that the adoption of these rifles by the Emperor has added a very efficient arm to the troops—one which, on the whole, offers some advantages over the Snider, which, after a certain amount of War Office pottering, has been adapted to our own Army. The Chassepot—Engravings of the mechanism of which we publish this week—has also undergone some modifications, the rapidity of fire being increased by the use of a self-consuming cartridge. The lightness of the ammunition and the flatness of the trajectory are also desirable qualifications for a piece used in the field; and, though the slight flange of the conical

bullet may a little retard its flight, it is doubtless that peculiarity which makes its wounds so terrible.

The construction of this rifle displays many advantages over the Prussian needle-gun, as may be seen by our Engraving. To begin with, the needle is attached securely to the pin, which, in its turn, is carried securely by the cock. The pin is surrounded by a spiral spring, so that when the cock is drawn back, until it engages with the catch, the spring is tightly compressed; and on being released by the trigger it drives the needle (c) forward into the cartridge. The whole of this spring is contained in the interior of the plunger. The breech-piece screws on to the barrel, and is of equal length with the sliding bolt, which moves to and fro in it. A longitudinal opening at the side admits the cartridge; the bolt is then pushed

forward and the lever (n) turned to close the breech. The fore end of the bolt serves to keep the cartridge well in the barrel, while the needle pierces it, and it also forms a protection or sheath for the point of the needle. The breech is rendered gas-tight by means of the wad, composed of layers of ebonite and indiarubber, which expands laterally when compressed by the explosion. To open the breech the cock is drawn back until it engages securely with the trigger; the lever (d) is then raised and the sliding-bolt drawn back, leaving the chamber open for the introduction of the cartridge. The bolt is then pushed forward, and if it is desired to keep the piece at half cock the lever is turned half way down only, when the cock catches the upper notch. By drawing out the cock and turning the lever completely down, the piece is made ready for firing.



A TYROLESE RIFLEMAN.—(FROM A DRAWING BY MATHIAS SCHMIDT.)

With a view to reduce the friction of the breech apparatus, the cock is furnished with a little wheel let in a slot. The calibre is 11 millimetres, or about 0.433 in., and the rifling has a twist from left to right of one turn in 55 centimetres, or 21.5 in. The rifle itself is about 4 ft. 3 in. in length and weighs rather less than 9 lb. The construction of the original cartridge was very simple, and it was said to be the best self-consuming cartridge then in use. It was made of paper turned over a wad at each end and carrying a cap somewhat smaller than the usual military pattern, and pierced with two holes for the passage of the fire. A little disc of indiarubber was placed in each cap, and had to be pierced by the needle before the cap could be ignited. It was found during the trials that the escaping gas found its way through the needle orifice into the plunger, and this little wad was introduced to act as a shield or valve round the needle. Very great difficulty was at first experienced with the

composition for charging the caps, they often refusing to explode when struck by the needle, as the surface struck was so small as to make it a matter of uncertainty whether sufficient chemical disturbance could be effected. This was said to have been obviated by a series of experiments in explosive composition by Messrs. Kynsch, of Birmingham. The charge of powder in the Chassepot cartridge was eighty-five grains and the bullet weighed 335 grains, the weight of the finished cartridge being one ounce. Some improvements have recently been introduced, however, which enable the Chassepot to take the central fire coiled cartridge—an adaptation due to Mr. Kerr, of the London Armoury Company. The points of difference between the newly-adopted weapon and the original Chassepot being a shortening of the breech, dispensing with the needle, needle guard, and indiarubber disc, a short blunt striker being substituted for the needle. The chamber is altered to fit the cartridge by

partially boring out the part and screwing in a collar in the rear. The extractor is a thin slip of steel screwed to the breech-piece, and revolving with it, a slight hollow a quarter of a circle being made round the rear of the chamber to allow the extractor to revolve as the breech is opened.

## A TYROLESE HUNTSMAN.

THE traveller who passes through main roads only, and adopts none but the recognised routes, will fall into one of two errors, or, perhaps, both together: either he will fancy that there is nothing worth seeing that does not lie immediately before him, or that the little that is to be discovered demands greater trouble than will be repaid by the sight of it. It is seldom that we can realise, for instance, that the heights of the Tyrol, piled one above the other as

they are seen from the post road at the bottom of the valley, are really a succession of valleys opening out one from the other and densely populated; and yet in these valleys are to be found one of the finest peoples in the world, indefatigable, brave, and industrious. We all know, from tradition and the repeated accounts of travellers, how the rifle has been till lately almost the paramount possession of the Tyrolese huntsman, and how the reputation of their sharpshooters has only just been superseded by the introduction of a superior weapon into England. The Tyrolese rifle, however, was a clumsy weapon, extremely heavy, and yet with a trigger so delicate that it might almost be set off by a sudden puff of wind. The practice, however, was incessant, and the matches at the Schiess-täte were the weekly holiday of the peasantry. When the hardy habits of the people and the mountainous nature of the country are taken into consideration, the success of the Tyrolese in their memorable struggles for independence may be understood without difficulty. They needed few tactics and little drilling for the warfare they waged: by day, sawdust thrown into the head waters of the river, flowing in various directions, conveyed a signal for a general rising, and by night the beacon fires from a hundred mountain tops sent forth the people to the place of rendezvous. The bands thus suddenly summoned dispersed when emergency required with the same rapidity that they assembled; and, from their knowledge of every pass and mountain, pursuit was hopeless. Again, when stand was to be made, they chose their own ground, and a dozen men could keep at bay a whole regiment of the enemy, their ambuscades daunting and wearing out the regular troops sent against them. Obtaining information from their spies of the time and direction in which their assailants were about to pass, they occupied the sides of some defile where the butting mountain overhung the road; here, collecting a vast mass of large stones and rocks, they bound them fast on the precipice and awaited the coming of the ranks of the enemy. Upon a given signal the ropes were cut, and the loosened mass, a cataract of stone, went crashing down upon those below; while the riflemen, perched upon inaccessible crags, or unseen amidst rocks and trees, took their deadly aim at the officers; and so skilful were some of the old Tyrolese marksmen, that, it is declared, men were picked off in the streets of Botzen by peasants posted on the hills above the town at a distance at which, in that day, it was thought to be impossible to hit. These, however, were in the days of the chamois-hunter, who himself has disappeared, since there are no longer chamois to hunt.

#### OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE part of Violetta in "La Traviata" will be remembered by intelligent opera-goers as the one in which the grace and talent of Mdlle. Nilsson were first revealed to an appreciative English audience. This charming artist reappeared as Violetta last Saturday evening. The scenes of tenderness—especially the touching one which brings the life of poor Violetta and the opera itself to a conclusion—are still those in which Mdlle. Nilsson is most excellent; but her performance in the dramatic finale to the second act is also highly effective, while her singing throughout is perfection. Mdlle. Nilsson's voice seems to us to have gained in power since last year, though it is just possible that the diminished arena in which she now performs may have something to do with the apparent change. We need scarcely say that she was received with enthusiasm, and that she was recalled and applauded to the echo after each act. Signor Bettini, as at previous representations of this work, when Mdlle. Clara Louisa Kellogg appeared as the heroine, represented Alfredo, Violetta's noble-minded lover; and Mr. Santley, Germont, Alfredo's venerable father.

At the Crystal Palace the chief attraction at the final concerts of the winter series, officially so called, had been Mendelssohn's music to "Olius," at the concert of the 18th, and Beethoven's "Choral Symphony," at the concert of the 25th. On Saturday last "Olius" was repeated, with an increased chorus, divided into two sections, one left and one right of the orchestra, the "strophe" verses being assigned to the former, the "antistrophe" to the latter. The unusual length of the programme rendered it necessary to omit the two short introductory movements. With reference to the great body of the work, we need only say that, as on the former occasion, it was admirably executed, and this both as regards the doing of the chorus and those of the orchestra. But all that the Crystal Palace band does is sure to be well done. Naturally, then, the "Reformation Symphony" was encored, but not repeated. The "allegro maseoso" was also greatly applauded. Indeed, the work was superbly performed from beginning to end, and, to judge from the attitude of the audience, was never more thoroughly appreciated. Between the "Reformation Symphony" and the music to "Olius at Colonus," Mdlle. Kellogg, who appeared for the first time at the Crystal Palace, sang the cavatina from "Linda," "Olue di quest anima," so brilliantly and effectively that it was unanimously demanded, though the general request was not complied with. Signor Fraschini's resonant voice was heard to advantage in "La donna e mobile," which, delivered though it may have been with unnecessary earnestness, was not the less applauded for that; and Mdlle. Trebelli-Bettini was highly successful in the always-welcome "Non più mesta," which few artists in this non-Rosinian—we might almost say anti-Rosinian—period are able to render with all the fluency demanded by the difficult yet thoroughly singable variations. The latter half of the concert was exclusively operatic.

#### SOUTH THAMES EMBANKMENT.

LAST Saturday a short link in the long line of communication which these great works are hereafter intended to afford on both sides of the Thames was formally opened to foot-passenger traffic from Westminster Bridge to Lambeth Bridge. The ceremony of opening it, if it may be dignified with the term of ceremony, was of the plainest and simplest description. Sir John Thwaites, the chairman, with Mr. Bazalgette, the engineer, and the chief members of the board, were present, and walked along the footpath from Lambeth Bridge to Westminster Bridge, arrived at which, Sir John Thwaites said that, as chairman of the Board of Works, he had much pleasure in declaring this south portion of the Thames Embankment opened. The hoarding at the top of the broad flight of stone steps which gives access to the path from Westminster Bridge was then removed, and the public admitted; and this was all the "opening." The works upon this portion of the south Thames Embankment comprise a length of about 2200 ft. of river wall between Westminster and Lambeth Bridges, and a further stretch of 2100 ft. from London to near the gasworks. With slight exceptions, the wall is of a uniform character. Unlike that on the Middlesex side, it is built on concrete faced with granite; whereas the wall on the north side is built on brick faced with granite. In both cases, however, the walls are of equal strength, and have a similar inward curve. Both are finished with the greatest perfection of workmanship, and have a moulded parapet and plinth which is broken at intervals of about 60 ft. with plain pedestals. To these are to be affixed the massive-looking bronze lions' heads and mooring-rings which already form such conspicuous ornaments on the Middlesex shore.

There are no recesses for steam-boat landing-places constructed in connection with the southern embankment, a circumstance due to the shallow foreshore on that side; but the approach to the Lambeth steam-boat pier will be improved and rendered somewhat more ornamental than at present. The only variation of importance in this long length of embankment wall is at Westminster Bridge, where a landing-place for smaller boats has been constructed. At this point there is also a descent by a wide flight of steps from Westminster Bridge to the promenade footway formed alongside the embankment wall, and now opened to the public. This approach from the bridge is made to correspond generally in character with that on the Middlesex side.

The only other variations in the elevation of the wall will occur above Lambeth Bridge, at the pottery-works of Messrs. Doulton and Mr. Stiff, where entrances are to be formed to docks situated or to

be constructed on the land side of the intended embankment road. These entrances will pass under the roadway without interfering with its level, and will be made in as slight a manner as such structures permit. Similar openings will be formed further up the river to give access to the river for carts and wagons to accommodate the traffic now using the White Hart drawdock.

The foundations of the wall are carried down to a depth of 30 ft. below Trinity high water, and it is intended to excavate the foreshore to the extent of 18 ft. below the same datum. The entire length of work between Westminster and Lambeth Bridges, and for a considerable length beyond, has been executed by means of a double whole-tide timber coffer-dam of the ordinary type; but at about 800 ft. above Lambeth Bridge the wall is being constructed in a trench excavated out of the ground; for at this part the wall runs inland and the ground on the river side will, after the completion of the wall, be excavated and removed, the space being thrown into the river so as to increase the stream, which is here very narrow, to a more uniform width with the upper part of the Thames, and admit the tidal water to flow more freely. The area of land thus to be converted into water is about two acres, and the area of land reclaimed from the river below this spot about six acres. When the embankment is completed, the width of the river will vary from 800 ft. at Westminster Bridge to 700 ft. at the Penitentiary.

The promenade now open for passengers, and which is 20 ft. wide, will eventually be continued, of a somewhat variable width, along the entire length of the embankment, and, indeed, beyond it, as far as High-street; for, to make the improvement as complete as possible, the roadway of Vauxhall row will be widened up to its junction with the new Thames Embankment roadway. This road will extend from Gun House-alley to Westminster Bridge, and will, in connection with the extension referred to, form an approach 60 ft. in width between Westminster and Vauxhall Bridges, in continuation of Stamford-street at the east end of the several roads meeting at Vauxhall Bridge at the western extremity.

The roadway will be formed along the river side for a length of 600 yards, but will diverge from it to connect at the one end with Vauxhall-row and at the other with Palace New-road. The footway will, however, be continued along the river side for nearly the entire length of the embankment. Upon the reclaimed land between Westminster and Vauxhall Bridges, bounded on the river side by the footway and on the land side by the intended new road, are being erected the new buildings for St. Thomas's Hospital, which will add materially to the architectural embellishment of the embankment. A similar background is much needed to give full effect to the embankment on the Middlesex shore.

#### THE "GIBRALTAR" SHIELDS.

ON Monday morning a bluebook was published containing the report of the Special Committee on the "Gibraltar" shields, to which are appended the minutes of evidence. The Committee was composed of Sir J. C. D. Hay, Major-General Sir John W. Gordon, Colonel Adye, R.A.; Lieutenant-Colonel E. W. Ward, R.E.; Mr. W. Fairbairn, Mr. W. Pole, and Mr. John Percy. The instructions given to the Committee were to inquire how far the trials that have been made were unfavourable to the shields, and what were the causes which had led to any failure; and the Committee were further instructed to consider what changes they could recommend in the construction of these shields. With respect to the first question, the Committee find, after a careful consideration of the general results of these trials, that they were unfavourable to the shield, and that it is not strong enough to resist the direct attack of powerful ordnance at a distance of 400 yards. It is not sufficiently massive, nor does it appear to the Committee to be of the most favourable construction. Various witnesses have testified to the weakness of the girder, to the insufficient thickness of the front plate, to the danger to the gun detachment from the multiplicity of bolts, nuts, and rivets, in a structure wholly of iron, to the weakness of each side of the embrasure, to the insufficiency of the skin as a support, and to other defects. It was, however, stated by other witnesses that the construction adopted has the advantage of being easily strengthened to any required degree by super-imposing additional armour-plates, or by substituting thicker ones. Many different methods of strengthening the shields were suggested to the Committee; but they do not consider that the question of their improvement can be satisfactorily dealt with until after further experiment; and hence they recommend that two of them should be returned to this country and experimented on, with the view of ascertaining how far the remainder are capable of improvement at a reasonable cost, and to gain experience for the future. It follows, therefore, as a matter of course, that the Committee were not prepared without further experiment to submit any recommendations with regard to the construction of other shields, or the principles on which they should be built. The Committee, however, arrived at the general conclusion that shields for important positions on land defences should afford greater protection than the one now reported on. The cost to this country of stronger shields would be small in comparison with the outlay necessary for their reconstruction. Coincidently with the publication of this bluebook a Parliamentary paper has been issued containing the observations of Colonel Jervoise, C.B., of the Works Department of the War Office, on the report of the Special Committee. The object of the paper is to vindicate the Works Department in this matter. Colonel Jervoise says that, looking to the possibility of complications arising from the struggle between Austria and Prussia, in 1866, special attention was turned to the defences of Malta and Gibraltar; and it was then proposed to protect by iron shields a few of the most powerful guns at each place. A sum of £30,000 was appropriated for this purpose; and the problem of the Works Department to solve was the application of this sum so as to provide as many shields as possible capable of fulfilling the conditions imposed. With regard to the result, Colonel Jervoise contends that when a Committee specially appointed to consider the question—with ample time, with additional evidence, and with the results of a further experiment before them—fail to see their way as regards the construction of shields, the Works Department may fairly claim every consideration in any discussion as to the mode in which they dealt with the subject in 1866. He moreover contends that the experiments themselves put the shield to a test and strain altogether in excess of what it should bear to enable it to fulfil the conditions for which it was designed; and he expresses a belief that had the inquiry been conducted on a broader basis, and had more consideration been given to all the contingent circumstances which affect the case, the Committee would have come to a different conclusion.

A REVOLUTION IN FASHION.—The empire of short dresses in Paris has been established by sacrifices worthy of the great principles it represents. The adherents to the new order of things were so numerous that the Court dressmaker could hardly find time to make them all fit to appear at the ball of Mme. de Portailes, the other night, which may be described as the coronation festival. The Duchess de Castries did not receive her dress till one in the morning, and another lady had to wait till half-past two. This did not, however, make them too late for the ball, for the last cotillon was danced at five a.m.

THE IRISH CHURCH.—A great meeting against Mr. Gladstone's resolutions was held, on Wednesday afternoon, in St. James's Hall. The Archbishop of Canterbury was in the chair. His Grace of York, with the Bishops of London and Oxford, and a good many other Bishops, were on the platform; the rural and metropolitan clergy were in the body of the hall; their wives and feminine well-wishers were in the galleries. Needless to say, the resolutions were condemned beyond hope of reparation. The Rectors were thoroughly earnest and thoroughly noisy, and, if not Christian, decidedly muscular, for they summarily ejected three persons who tried to make a disturbance by shouting the wrong way. Dean Stanley addressed them, and began to define his Liberalism; but, at the mention of the word, they cheered him down, and his further attempt to explain was drowned in cries that a less reverend assemblage would deserve to be called hooligans. The Archbishop of York spoke more to their liking—"Some persons thought a great deal of a vote of the House of Commons," he observed, and their cheering indorsed the sneer. They received the most satisfactory assurances from the law Lords as to the way in which the resolutions would be treated in the Upper House; and they broke up, hoarse and happy, with a benediction and three cheers for the Queen.

#### SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIPS.

AN extraordinary case, "Lyon v. Home," which occupied Vice-Chancellor Giffard's Court for nearly a couple of weeks, and is still under consideration, has excited no small amount of interest and afforded a large measure of amusement. The facts, as brought out in evidence, may be gathered from the subjoined summary.

Mrs. Lyon, a woman, now seventy-five years of age, not very well born, but with some property of her own, married a wealthy husband, by whom she was left a widow in 1859, with about £100,000 at her own disposal. She was devoted to the memory of her husband, and from mysterious "inspirations" during his lifetime she was possessed with a belief that in some way she should meet him again at the end of seven years. In July, 1866, she learnt that her expectations could be very simply fulfilled by applying to Mr. Home, the well-known spiritualist. This person was then the resident secretary of an institution called "The Spiritual Atheneum," in Sloane-street. Mrs. Lyon read his book, and on Sept. 30 she wrote to him. Receiving no answer, she called in Sloane-street on Oct. 2, and had an interview with him. Within little more than a week from that date she had given him a sum of £24,000, with the view of insuring him an income of £700 a year. Her own letter on this occasion is preserved, and is worth reprinting, with all its dashes:—"My dear Mr. Home—I have a desire to render you independent of the world, and having ample means for the purpose, without abstracting from any needs or comforts of my own, I have the greatest satisfaction in now presenting you with, and as an entirely FREE GIFT from me, the sum of £24,000, and am, my dear Sir, yours very truly and respectfully, JANE LYON." Immediately after this Mrs. Lyon and Mr. Home adopted towards each other the warmest language of mother and son, and on Nov. 8 the newly-made mother made a will, in which she assigned all her property to this affectionate son. On the ensuing Dec. 10 she presented Mr. Home with another £6000, just to make up the £24,000 to a round sum of £30,000, and Mr. Home assumed the name of Lyon. Once more, towards the end of January, 1867, she assigned him a mortgage security of £30,000, taking care, however, meanwhile, to have "a strong legal deed" prepared in order to secure the interest as an annuity for herself. But at this point Mr. Home's star had reached its zenith. In February we find Mrs. Lyon calling in Sloane-street and getting back one of her letters. In March she ceases to sign herself "affectionate mother." In May she sees a solicitor, who assures her she has been imposed upon; but she cannot accept the lawyer's advice without consulting another "medium." The familiar spirits of Miss Berry confirm her suspicions, and in June she has an interview with Mr. Home, in which she indulges in vituperations not less warm than her previous expressions of affection. She demands the surrender of the mortgage, and Mr. Home, in a subsequent letter to "his dear mother," modestly offers to resign the deed provided she will leave him and his "in undisputed possession" of the first £30,000, with permission to resume his own name. On the 17th the "mother" arrested her "son" and threw him into Whitecross Prison, and this suit was instituted to set aside both the gift and the assignment of the mortgage. The will, no doubt, has already been altered—let us hope in favour of Mrs. Lyon's poor relations.

Such are the wonderful facts about which there is no dispute whatever. It is with respect to the manner in which they are to be explained that the issue lies. Mrs. Lyon avers that she was induced to sacrifice her property in this extraordinary manner by the dictation of Mr. Home's spirits. Mr. Home, on the other hand, represents that from their first interview Mrs. Lyon conceived an unaccountable regard for him; moreover, that she thought she could employ him as an introduction to society, and that she only changed her mind when she found he would not be so serviceable as she had supposed.

It is agreed that Mrs. Lyon was at an early interview introduced by Mr. Home to the spirit of her deceased husband. On Oct. 7, when the gift of £24,000 was first proposed, Mr. Home allows that the words "Dear spirit" may have been overheard by a listener, and as he rose to leave the house sounds came, "Do not, my darling Jane, say, alas! the light of other days is for ever fled; the light is with you; Charles lives and loves you." Mrs. Lyon affirms that the apparition of the deceased Charles further announced that Mr. Home was "my son, therefore yours;" that the spirit commanded her to adopt Mr. Home, and that the various gifts were due to this express dictation. It is said, however, that being asked whether, if her husband had been alive, she would have been dictated to by him, she replied "Certainly not;" and the answer is undoubtedly in harmony with her general demeanour. It should be stated that she gave her evidence in Court with singular shrewdness, pertinacity, and force. She displayed, however, some little contradictions. She protests against being supposed to have ever been fond of Home, but also "at the same time that she was 'too loving by half.'" This she certainly was, since on Oct. 10, a week after her introduction, she admitted that she kissed him twice "when he was ill and lying on the sofa." "I just," she explains, "put my lips to his forehead. That was the only two times. I am not so fond of kissing—but the qualification is added, "certainly not on Oct. 10." Three days afterwards she writes to her dear son of "feeling so anxious on his account that she is sure it is a mother's maternal love towards her beloved child." She does not know why she should have written in such a foolish way; it was all the spirits working among us." The folly, however, proceeded. When the mortgage transfer was executed, on Jan. 19, "certainly my arm was not round Dan's neck, but I remember his arm was round my waist, and his other hand was on my head, smoothing my hair while the deeds were being read." She cannot tell when her eyes were opened, but it is the strangest part of the story that they were never quite shut. She always disliked the deed by which she was made "an anointed under a spiritual adventurer;" but this side of her character is best exemplified in the following curious extract from a letter which she wrote on Dec. 26 to the solicitor who drew the trust deed for her:—"We cannot surely foresee what time may bring forth, and it is best to be on the safe side. Daniel is at present all that the most fastidious can wish for; but there is no knowing what time and an entire independence may do; he may consider me a bore, and cut me altogether, which may probably be anything but agreeable to me; otherwise he may inherit all I have, as I have little love for any of my husband's relations, except his favourite sister, and she is not likely to survive me." This was the woman who afterwards figured, as we have described, in the interesting scene of Jan. 19.

As to Mr. Home, up to the time when this inexplicable lady lost her maternal affection for him he was a very fortunate person. He may be so still. He is certainly happy in his familiar spirits, whose communications are the most convenient for him that could possibly be imagined. Their chief characteristic is that they relieve him of all responsibility. He is perfectly powerless in the matter. He does not profess to "call spirits from the vasty deep," and therefore the question cannot be asked whether they come when he doth call for them. They come at their own pleasure; why they connect themselves with him she does not know; but he is of a very nervous organisation. Consequently, they are in no way mercenary spirits. You cannot go to Mr. Home and buy a manifestation. No money was taken at the doors of the Spiritual Atheneum, and, in fact, money was actually lost by that institution. The spiritual influence is thus independent of all pecuniary contamination. At the same time, "anonymous gifts (presents) are very often sent" to Mr. Home; and before Mrs. Lyon's burst of generosity a gentleman had settled £150 a year on him, so that the spirits are profitable without being mercenary. They have introduced Mr. Home, moreover, to very high society, and he claims to have received the hospitality of the Emperors of France and Russia. Then they seem reasonable spirits, and are not arbitrary. It is permissible to exercise one's own reason in respect to their directions. You would not be bound, for instance, to cut off your right hand because a spirit ordered it; and if they tell you to consult a particular doctor, it is desirable to ascertain whether he is skilled in the branch of science for which he is needed. It is unfortunate that Mrs. Lyon did not understand this point in the character of the spirits, or she might have judged for herself whether her deceased husband's spirit



